

Letter Book File at Yakima

Agency, Toppenish, Washington, April-1953

Mostly Wilbur letters:

Pressed copies

No. 1- May 9, 1878 (1878) to 1005 (August 24)

last 25 or 20 blanks or imperfect trial prints only.

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Office Yakima Indian Agency

Ft. Simcoe, W.T. July 26, 1878

Gen. O.O. Howard, Commander of the District of Columbia:

Sir: It becomes my duty to inform you that on or about the 10th(?) day of this month a man and his wife were murdered by the Indians about 60 miles east of this place. We suppose they were killed by the party of Indians who crossed the Columbia River at the time the gun boat fired into them, while crossing said river. The same party were known to cross the Rocky Ford on the Yakima River en route for Priest Rapids on the Columbia. The man and woman killed were supposed to be in camp between White Bluffs and Yakima City at, or near Rattlesnake Spring. Mr. and Mrs. Perkins were the party killed. Their bodies have been found about 1 1-2 miles from said spring, covered up with stones in a ravine.

This party of Indians are now said to be camped on the opposite side of the Columbia River above Priest Rapids below Moses and Smohalla's camp.

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I have reliable information (I think) that Moses and Smohalla will not allow this party to come among their people <sup>lest</sup> ~~but~~ they should in some way become involved in their supposed crimes.

Moses from time to time reports to the Agency that he and his people are the settlers' friends of the whites, having no disposition----or intention to be hostile. It is all important that efficient measures be taken to find, arrest and bring to justice these guilty persons. I write that you in your wisdom may assist in the accomplishment of this important work.

I have arrested and now have in confinement here 8 young men (Indians) that have been stealing from the whites. All on and about the reservation is now quiet.

I am sir, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur.

W.S. Ind. Agent.

Washington, D.C. Aug. 31st, 1878

Hon E.A. Hoyt, commissioner.

Sir: I have the honor to request the approval of the following named persons employed at the Yakima Indian agency during the 1st qr. 1878

Voucher-	14	Tecumsech Yaktwit	Ind. Labor	\$46.63
"	15	Dan Boone	" "	21.46
"	16	Thomas Jasper	" "	18.61

I am, sir

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Ind. Agent.



Washington, D.C. Sept. 13, 1878

Hon. E.H. Hoyt, commissioner

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that a police force was organized the last days of July in accordance with instructions rec'd from your office at the Yakima Indian agency; and to inquire of you if any things has been done to furnish said police with the clothes, rations and other things promised. If not, I urge you to consider the necessity of immediate action in the case.

An early reply is solicited

I am sir, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur,

U.S. Ind. Agent.

Washington, D.C. Sept. 17th, 1878

Hon E.H. Hoyt, commissioner:

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that at the Yakima Indian agency W.T. we have from 3 to 5 hundred head of beef steers from 3 to 6 years old, cattle purchased with and the increase of cattle from money r'ced from miscellaneous receipts. These cattle would doubtless bring a good price the coming winter and spring.

1st: Can I have authority to sell so many of said cattle as will not be needed for the use and benefit of the agency? In view of the probable demand for beef cattle the coming winter and spring and the fact that when beef cattle arrive at that age they do not improve in growth or value like young stock I am fully persuaded the service would be advantaged by the sale.

2nd: If such sale is made under authority given can the money then obtained be used in the purchase of stock cattle, wagons, harness, materials and the supplying the shops and mills with tools machinery and men so as to make every department of the service ~~now and~~ more thrifty; and enable us to employ more Indian men and thereby educate them to be self supporting. In other words can I use the money rece'd from the miscellaneous sources for the purpose above named.

I ~~regard the~~ request the withdrawal of a letter upon the subject dated Sept. 6, 1878.

I am sir

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Ind. Agent.



Yakima Indian Agency, W. Ter. Sept. 19, 1878

James Steel, Esq. Cashier, 1st Natl. Bank, Portland, Oregon.

Sir:

Your statement of disbursing account of J.H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent, Yakima Agency, was rec'd yesterday.

Our monthly statement for Aug. 31st showed total due U.S. check 126 \$50 being dropped out of your account \$906.56 will make both your statement and ours agree.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur



Washington...

Office Yakima Ind. Agency  
Ft. Simcoe W.T. Oct. 25, 1878

Hon E.A. Hoyt  
Commissioner

Sir:

I have the honor to request the approval of an open market purchase made July 5, 1878 of McFarland and French of one hundred seamless sacks \$25. Also July 14 purchase in open market of McFarland of powder 20 pounds and 1,000 caps gun amounting to \$10. Also 9th purchased of G.W. Carey on open market at the lowest ~~0000~~ cash price amounting to \$19.80 (rope) These articles were purchased at the lowest cash price.

I had no knowledge of the lack of sacks, rope and powder and caps and lead until there was an immediate and imperative demand for the same.

I am sir, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Ind. Agent.

Office Yakima Ind. Agency

Ft. Simcoe, W.T. Oct. 31, 1878

Hon E.A. Hoyt, commissioner

Sir:

I have the honor herewith to forward the oath of E.B. McFarland of the firm of Brooks and McFarland of whom I purchased goods Nov. 7, 1876. I was authorized to purchase the amount of two thousand dollars. The goods were purchased at different times and the exigency of the service required the immediate delivery of all the articles purchased. The mountain Road was closed with snow...said goods reached the station and remained , closed..until the middle of May. If ...utterly impossible for us to send to the Department of Washington to get permission to make extra purchase. I ask the approval

I am sir

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Ind. Agent



Fort Simcoe, W.T.

Nov. 19, 1878

I hereby certify that at the time of the 52nd voucher, 1877, I was paid the market rate of currency in this country, was 95 cents on the dollar and at the time of the 64th, 2nd quarter, 1877, 61st voucher, 2nd quarter, 1877, 62 voucher, 2nd quarter, 1877, 63rd quarter, 2nd quarter, 1877, was paid market rate for currency were 94 cents on the dollar.

G.B. Kuykendall

postmaster at Fort Simcoe, W.T.

Office Yakima Ind. Agency

Ft. Simcoe. W.T. Nov. 2nd, 1878

Hon E.A. Hoyt, commissioner, Sir:

I have the honor to request a change in the salary of Moses Strong from \$360 to \$500. He stands on our papers as farmer but is very efficient in herding and branding cattle and is equal to any white man we can employ in that department. Please let his salary be changed from Oct. to \$500. ✓

Yours obedient servant

James H. Wilbur U.S. Indian agent.

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Yakima Indian agency, Ft. Simcoe W.T. Nov. 19, 1878

Mr. Thomas W. Miller, Dalles, Oregon.

Sir: Please find enclosed a check for two hundred and eighty one dollars and thirty cents (\$281.30) Please sign a receipt voucher and send them by bearer.

and oblige

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



Office Yakima Ind. Agency

Ft. Simcoe. W.T. Nov. 13, 1878

Hon E.A. Hoyt, Commissioner, sir:

I have the honor to inform you that there was an omission in making the report of resident physician and superintendent of teaching. The Dr. was and is away from the agency and has been away about three weeks on the account of the ill health of his wife. When he returns which will be in a few days, his report will be sent. Please find report of superintendent of teaching and file with the papers.

I am sir, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur.

Office Yakima Indian Agency

Fort Simcoe, W.T. Dec. 31, 1878

Hon E.A. Hayt

Commissioner

Sir: I have the honor to report the Indians of the agency quite and well disposed toward the whites. There has been great excitement among the people around the agency in regard to Moses and his people but it is passing away.

The winter has been remarkably fine.--the stock of the agency has done well--the work of the agency is prospering--the schools are larger than ever before--the boarding department is well managed--the children, indeed all the Indians of the agency, are enjoying unusual good health.

I am sir, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent



Office Yakima Indian Agency

Ft. Simcoe W.T. January 6th, 1879

Brigadier General O.O. Howard

Dear Sir:

Your telegram dated Vancouver

Dec 31st is received.

"You say, the three Columbia Indians that professedly belong at Yakima are still here awaiting your decision. What shall I do with them?"

I do not know what Indians they are or why they were taken to Vancouver. If they are guilty of crimes they should be punished.

If not they should be returned to this agency.

I am sir,

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.

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Office Yakima Indian Agency , Ft. Simcoe W.T. January 10th, 1879

Hon E.A. Fayt Commissioner:

Sir: I have the honor herewith to forward the report of irregular employes of this agency for the month of Dec., 1878. Asking your approval. I am sir, your obed. servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Ind. Agent.

Office Yakima Indian Agency.

Ft. Simcoe, W.T. January 24th, 1879

Hon. E.A. Mayt, commissioner

Sir: I have the honor to request an increase of salary for my interpreter Stick Joe. He has for many years been lame, has always been a true friend of the whites and has rendered valuable service in time of difficulty..believes the whites and Indians. He is more extensively acquainted with the Indians through the whole country than any man of my acquaintance. As we are getting on wild bands is time, strength and means are taxed more than formerly. Please let his salary be fixed at five hundred dollars per annum, beginning January 1st, 1879

I am sir

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.



Office Yakima Ind. Agency

Pt. Simcoe, Wt. Jan. 30th, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a letter dated Washington, D.C. Nov. 21st, 1878 directed to the Honorable Secretary of War by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior stating that the commissioner of Indian affairs had recommended that Gen. O.O. Howard be instructed to select the ring leaders of the Indians now held by him as prisoners and turn over the remainder to me at this agency. This information reached this office this hour, with a letter from Capt. Winters now on the road—indeed now on the reservation with five hundred and fifty three of said Indians with provisions (as he says) to subsist them only until tomorrow.

That these Indians should be sent to this agency without our knowledge or any consultation with the Indians of the reserve and the agent informed that they are to be turned over, located and subsisted only sixteen hours before they are to be held and taken care of is a marvel of marvels to me. Capt. Winters in his letter received this hour informs me that the Indians on his charge will stop on the agency 30 miles distant bel...the station and wants me to meet him and take charge of them!!

How are they to be subsisted? Out of what fund are they to be subsisted? Whence is the money to meet the expense? We have beef cattle, but they belong properly to the Indians of this agency and cannot in justice be used for hostile bands that may be moved here. We have .. pg. 103

I shall wait with great anxiety for specific instructions.

I am etc.

Office Yakima Indian Agency

Ft. Simcoe, W.T. January 31st, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir: I have the honor to submit my report of this agency for the month of January, 1879.

The work of the agency has greatly increased this month. The keeping of Moses and the Smohalla people numbering over 250 and the Indians from Rock Creek on the Columbia, about as many more require constant attention, personal attention of the agent to look after and supply their wants.

These have been moved to the agency with a very trifling expense and I hope with wise management they may be settled on farms and cultivate the soil--my prime object is to educate them to work. If this is done the foundation is laid for them to be self supporting.

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The carpenter, Mr. Miller is doing a good work instructing the Indians in his department.

The schools are doing better this winter than last season. H.S. Powell (?) the supt. is doing good service both in and out of school hours. The boys of the schools are very industrious and systematic in their work.

Miss Lewis, who is in charge of the primary class is apt to teach, patient and persevering in her efforts and the children have made marked improvement the past month.

Mrs. Miller who is in charge of the boarding house and who with the help of the girls is making the clothes for the children of the school is constant in her efforts to instruct the girls when out of school in those things that will make them efficient when they leave the school. This important department is well managed and the children are happy and healthy.

The blacksmithing is done by Abe Lincoln and helpers, all



all native Indians and this department is worked satisfactorily.

Dan Boone, who has been educated here as a harness maker having an apprentice, mending and making harness and doing excellent work.

Smith is a practical saddler. Makes his saddles and covers them with raw hide and then with leather, he purchases, finishes them up equal to any saddler in the country.

The Indians now in our employe doing work outside of the shops are engaged in taking care of Department stock and getting work of butchering, all this outside work is done by the Indians under my personal supervision.

During the month there has been but little work for the Indian police. Every thing in connection with the Indians of the agency is moving along as quietly and prosperously as in the past. The health of the Indians I think has never been better than during the present month. Our medical supplies said to be purchased and sent have not arrived and not heard from.

Rumors says the Snake and Piute Indians are in route for this agency. I think there must be some mistake about it as not a word has been rec'd at this office of such a design from the government.

I am etc.