

Yakima war

Just prior to the outbreak of the war (Yakima war) an event occurred which brought joy to many hearts.

A discovery of gold was reported to have been made in the vicinity of the Hudson Bay company's Fort Colville and not a little excitement had been aroused in consequence.

It was hoped that this would cause the long-looked for large immigration of people into the territory and its more complete settlement.

Instead it furnished the immediate occasion for the melancholy war which did so much to retard development and delay settlement.

The young commonwealth was fated to pass through a period of trials, dissimilar in many respects to that experienced by Oregon in the dark days of the Cayuse war, yet similar in that it stirred the hearts of the people to their most profound depths and tried their metal as with fire.

So great was the feeling of security engendered by the successful negotiation of the treaties at "alla Walla--treaties which incorporated as one of their provisions pledges of good will on the part of the Indians toward the white race--that persons traveling from Puget Sound through ~~to~~ the Colville gold fields hesitated not to pass through the Indian country singly or in small squads ill equipped to repel attack. Soon rumors reached the settlements that many such had been murdered by Indians and that the Yakimas had taken an attitude of hostility toward white men.

The rumors in the cases of Mattice, Jamison, Walker, Eaton, Cummings, Huffman, Hanjoy and others being partially confirmed, Sub Agent Andrew J. Bolon then en route to the Spokane country to meet Gov. Stevens turned aside into the Yakima country to ascertain from

Kamiakin himself the truth or falsity of the statements. He never returned to tell the story

....At the close of his pow wow campaign in the Yakima country Wright having failed to find any enemy to oppose had reported to Gen. Wool that the war was at an end. The latter had on the 2d of August issued an order to Wright in which he said:

"The general congratulates you on your successful termination of the war with the Yakimas and Klickitats...With the least possible delay you will conduct an expedition into the Walla Walla country.

No emigrants or other whites except the Hudson's Bay company or persons having ceded rights from the Indians will be permitted to settle or remain in the Indian country, or on land not ceded by treaty confirmed by the senate and approved by the president of the United States excepting the miners at the Colville mines. They will be notified, however, that if they interfere with the Indians or their squaws they will be punished and sent out of the country...

Kittitas, Klickitat, Yakima history..Interstate, 1904.

1855-56

One Capt. Ingalls, the discoverer of the Coos Bay mines in Oregon and a typical representative of the nomadic prospecting class which formed so important a part of the early population of the west, may perhaps be considered the original discoverer of the Peshastin district.

During the Indian war of 1855-56 he served as a scout and in company with other scouts from the ranks of the friendly Indians reconnoitered the eastern slope of the Cascade range.

While on the Wenatchee river he and an Indian named Colawash found in one of the tributary canyons several gold nuggets and other substantial indications of the existence of placer deposits. They dare not tarry for close investigation however for should they be discovered by the hostiles their lives would not be worth a cent.

Ingalls was, therefore, compelled to abandon his find for the time being.

When at length the Indian troubles were at an end he again entered the country but with all his experience in finding his way in the wilderness by landmarks he was unable to rediscover the gold bearing gravels or the creek whose bed and banks they formed.

Eventually, in 1860, he went to the home of Colawash in the Klickitat valley hoping to induce the red man to guide him to the spot. Vain were his efforts. All hope from that source had to be abandoned.

Ingalls then associated himself with Levi and Andrew Jackson Knott, Robert Ladd and one or two others with intent to make a more extended search for the lost placers. Their expedition was destined to be brought to an abrupt and melancholy termination

While the company was in camp Ingalls was accidentally shot and killed by

A.J. K_nott so the rest of the party left without a guide, were compelled to return to the settlements.

The next effort to discover the lost placer was made by Charles A. Splawn, then living near Goldendale. In the spring of 1860 he had gone to try his fortunes in the Similkameen mines having first talked with Colawasy with whom he was on friendly terms, regarding the Ingalls discovery. Colawash refused to guide him or anybody else to the spot but told Mr. Splawn that the name of the creek was Peshastin, also drew a rough map for his further information.

While returning from the Similkameen district in the fall of 1860 Mr. Splawn fell in with four other returning miners, whom he readily induced him in a search for the Peshastin prospect.

The party proceeded to the mouth of the Wenatchee river where an Indian guide was procured. As they proceeded up the Wenatchee the Indian named the different tributary streams as he came to them.

When the prospector had reached a place between 15 and 20 miles from the river's mouth the guide pointed out a considerable creek flowing in from the south and stated it was the Peshastin of which they were in search.

Splawn started up the stream, others took a hill trail agreeing to meet him at the summit of the divide. In the first narrow canyon after leaving the mouth of the creek Mr. Splawn dug out a promising crevice and panned from its contents a dollar in gold. The bed rock was slate.

Then he pushed on to the rendezvous where he found his companions waiting. They had been accidentally joined by a young man named Russell. He was the young man who had been chosen to carry the news of Lincoln's election to the northern mines and was on his return to the sound when he met the party. He became enthusiastic over the discovery and having begged

the gold from its owner proceeded with it to Seattle.

Its exhibition there caused not a little excitement. The few newspapers then in the Northwest published exaggerated accounts of the discovery and some of them indulged in useless prophesying as to the future extensive development of the region.

Numerous parties at once outfitted and started for the new diggings and Mr. Splawn estimated that seventy-five miners spent the winter on the Peshastin.

But the gold fields though they produced nuggets weighing as high as \$12 were of small extent. They were soon overshadowed in public interest by the most important discoveries made in Idaho and British Columbia about that time and eventually ceased entirely to be the center of excitement, though gold was found there for several years and in later days quartz ledges have been uncovered in the district.

The principal branch of Peshastin creek is known today as Ingalls creek, having been so named in honor of the man who first discovered but did not live to open the mines.

Central Washington history, Interstate Pub. co 1904.

..was the exhibition at Fort Simcoe by an old Indian named Zokeseye of some silver bearing rock.

This was about 1862 or 1863.

Zokeseye gave the quartz to the agency secretary, whose name was Walker and about a week or 10 days later Walker took it with him to the Dalles where he showed it, while intoxicated to ~~Ward~~ a California assayer named Blachley. Fully appreciative of the richness the Californian at once assayed the rock and found it to be nearly two thirds silver.

He questioned Walker regarding the the place where it was discovered and was sent to F. M. Thorp as the one who could most likely find the ledge on account of his friendliness with the Indians.

Thorp joined him in a prospecting tour, taking along some Indian guides of whom unfortunately ~~Sok~~ Zokeseye could not be one as the old red man had died shortly after giving Walker the rock.

The party prospected for more than a month going up the Tietan to the summit of the Cascades, thence northwest to the headwaters of Bumping river, exploring numerous streams but finding nothing.

After returning from his trip Blachley went back to California but the next summer he was again in the Yakima county ready for another search. With Thorp and Indian guides and part of the time Charles Splawn he explored the Wenatchee country, the upper Yakima and towards Mount Baker, going wherever the Indians reported the existence of precious metals. The search was bootless.

For several years afterwards F. M. Thorp and Charles Splawn gave a portion of each summer to prospecting. Numerous other parties and individuals sought earnestly for the ~~860~~ Zokeseye lode, during the 60s and 70s. and the story has been revived frequently in more recent times, despite every effort, the ledge from which the old

Columbia river

Gold-Ringold

About the fall of 1864 a discovery of placer gold was made on what is known as Ringold bar on the west side of the Columbiariver, twenty miles north of Goldendale by a party of which a surveyor named Hall was one.

Quite a large number of men flocked to the diggings which were worked with water from the Columbiar iver.

L.L. Thorp spent three months there and received as recompense for his labors only a twenty-dollar cleanup, but White & Black, four claims below him, took out \$2,500 in less than six weeks while a French company did even better.

The bar yielded some thirty thousand or forty thousand dollars to white miners and an unknown sum to the Chinamen who washed its graves intermittently for several years afterwards. Central Washington History, Interstate, 1904.

Gold Mining

1871 or 1873

During 1873 (some say 1871) occurred an event of great moment in the settlement of the future Kittitas county, namely the discovery of gold in the Swauk region.

As early as 1867 a prospecting party of which N. Thomas Goodwin, Benton Goodwin and Edward Towner were members had passed through this country and while following one of the many Indian trails, namely that leading to the Peshastin district, had made a discovery the importance of which they did not realize at the time.

While camped for their midday meal near Swauk creek Benton Goodwin busied himself in panning one of the bars of the stream. He was ignorant of the appearance of native gold but suspecting that yellow particles he found in the bottom of his pan might be the precious metal he showed them to Towner the only experienced prospector in the party. The latter pronounced them fine gold. His statements were received with considerable doubt by the party which passed on having first jocularly named the place, Discovery bar.

During the ensuing two or three years the region was prospected occasionally but no one found enough gold to warrant the establishment of a camp. In the fall of 1873 however a party of men met with better success than any of their predecessors.

In this company were Newton Thomas Goodwin and Benton Goodwin who had been in the party that made the discovery six years previous, also W.H. Beck, George Mycock, whose name was later changed by the legislature to Starr and a young Kentuckian named D.Y. Borden. The men were very much dispirited having been unsuccessful in their quest of fortune and being exhausted and nearly out of provisions but Benton and N.T. Goodwin accepted the proposal of the Kentuckian to prospect Swauk creek. Benton Goodwin soon discovered a small nugget. He called the others to him who soon found a pot hole in the center of

the stream. To dig down to bedrock was the work of but a short time as there was nothing in the cavity but wash gravel. From a panful of dirt taken out of the bottom of the hole Borden washed a small nugget worth about fifteen cents. The rest of the men were summoned leaving their sizzling supper to take care of itself they set to work panning the gravel from the pot hole and within an hour had over \$5 worth of coarse dust and nuggets, some of the latter weighing a dollar.

Next day the party divided its forces, Starr and Beck going below and the rest above the camp.

Those who ascended the creek found a spot where as evidenced by the protruding roots of a large tree the bedrock was close to the surface. Digging here Borden took a nugget weighing over an ounce and worth \$16. He also found gravel that yielded thirty to forty cents to the pan.

The five prospectors prepared now for systematic work, staking out claims in the regular way and sending to John L. Vaughn's place for provisions. Great pains were taken to keep the discovery a secret but in about two weeks rumors of it reached the outside world through the Indians. In that time however the party had secured between \$500 and \$600, even with the crude equipments at hand. One day it is said they dug out \$150 with a butcher knife.

News of the discovery soon precipitated a rush of miners and others and ere long there were many hundreds on the ground. That fall the Swauk creek mining district was organized with D.Y. Borden as the first recorder. It was agreed that claims should be 200 feet long and from rimrock to rimrock. So on the creek was located from its mouth, five miles below Discovery bar to the forks 15 miles upstream but the miners were unable to find gold in paying quantities except on and in the immediate vicinity of the bar. As a result most of the people left as speedily as they had come and that winter less than 50 were there.

These consisted of the Discovery Company, then increased to 12 by the addition of John P. Beck, G.W. Goodwin, A. Churchill, David Munn, James and Samuel Bates and another and three other companies, namely Walter A. Bull & Company on Starr bar, a French association led by Joseph Superneau, operating on Williams creek and a cooperative company at the mouth of that stream.

The Williams creek miners met with little success that winter though subsequently some rich ground was discovered there. Indeed the explorations and operations of the first three years failed to bring to light the ~~gold~~ wealth of the region except on Discovery Bar where in the spring of 1874 sluices were built of whipsawed lumber and where an ounce a day to the man was averaged that season. But the next year the lead played out and in 1876 the mines were abandoned.

In the late seventies activity was renewed in the Swauk district; lost leads were discovered; the region became a prominent producer and ever since it has continued to yield considerable quantities of gold. Many who were attracted to the country by the first discoveries remained to assist in the development of Kittitas county's latent resources so ~~including~~ the finding of the yellow metal may be considered one of the most important events of the early days; not alone in its direct but in its indirect effects.

~~Central~~ Central Washington history. Interstate 1904.

Mining

However Yakima county shares with her neighbors, King, Pierce, and Kittitas the extensive and important Summit mining district situated at the head of Moore's creek, a tributary of American river.

The district is approximately 20 miles square on the eastern and half on the western slope of the Cascade range but the greater part of the mining is carrying on on old hill an eastern spur of the great divide.

Moore's creek, Union creek, Rainier fork and American river would furnish the district with an abundant water supply, and though it is within the Rainier forest reserve the government permits the taking for minor purposes of necessary timber.

Silver creek, a tributary of White river is the principal mining stream of the western slope.

..the matrix of the ore is porphyry, magnesia and lime carrying values of gold, silver and copper; is amenable to concentration in the proportion of five to one; the size of the ledge varies from a few inches to twenty feet. ore in the Elizabeth ledge assays from \$14 to \$346.42 a ton, the values being in gold, silver, copper and lead.... Central Washington History, Interstate, 1904.

Mining

1860

A.J. Splawn says that for a few months during 1860
Hald & Meigs of the Dalles, Oregon maintained a trading post at
Manastash ford, Kittitas county for the accommodation of travel
to the Wimilkameen mines.

Central Washington History. Interstate, 1904.

Indian War

Priest's Rapids

Gov. Stevens...(Klickitat, Kittias and Yakima history..Interstate, 1904.)-- page 75

The country between the Blue mountains and the Columbia was overrun with Indians, numbering one thousand to twelve hundred warriors including the force at Priests' rapids under Kamiakin who had sworn to cut me off; it was completely blocked up. One effect of the campaign of the regulars and volunteers in the Yakima country under Brig. General Raines was to drive Kamiakin and his people on our side of the Columbia river and thus endanger our movement from the Spokane to the Nez Perce country. Thus we had been hemmed in by a body of hostile Indians through whom we could have only forced our way with extreme difficulty and at great loss of life.

Portland Daily Standard:

In the engagement at the Yakima river, mentioned in Major Rains' dispatch, Captain Bennett's company, Company F and part of the Clackamas company, Company C, took part and were the first to cross the river and charge the enemy who fled with great rapidity so much so that the disabled state of the horses of the volunteers rendered pursuit unsuccessful.

Captain Cornelius' company, Company D, having become separated from the main body of the volunteers in the engagements at the river, encountered a superior force of Indians and fought them nearly half a day.

He kept them at bay and succeeded in taking some cattle and driving them into camp that night. Two of his men were severely wounded. The damage inflicted upon the Indian was not known.

In the attack the next day at the mountain gorge spoken of by

Major Raines otherwise called the Two guttes, the number of Indians was not less than 500 hundred. About one hundred and fifty were counted upon the top of the hill and the remainder were in the brush. By some misunderstanding of orders given to surround them a gap was left open and those made their escape. Two only were killed. Pursuit was of no avail.

The regulars and volunteers encamped near the mission, which having been abandoned, it was conjectured that the main force of the Indians had either gone to the Naches pass to attack Captain Maloney or up the Columbia to Priests' rapids.

Col. Nesmith with a command of two hundred and fifty men proceeded toward the pass and after an absence of three days returned without having seen the enemy. He found the snow so deep as to prevent the forage of his animals and was compelled to return.

He found caches of Indian provisions which he destroyed and several Indian mares and colts which were killed as they would be of no service to the volunteers. Some wild Indian cattle were also found and killed, which furnished subsistence for the troops. In and about the mission were found vegetables and a variety of useful articles.

On Colonel Nesmith's return a council of officers was held by which it was deemed inexpedient to proceed to Walla Walla owing to the scarcity of forage, the weak condition of the animals and difficulty of crossing the Columbia with sick and wounded. It was decided to return to The Dalles and recruit.

After burning the mission and a house owned by Kamiakin the whole force of regulars and volunteers took up their line of march for the Dalles. On the way they met Captain Wilson's command Company with the pack train of supplies which train had suffered great loss of animals and supplies by reason of the snows in the mountains, in places four feet deep... Klickitat, Kittitas, Yakima. Interstate, 1904.

Smohalla

In the seventies the famed Smohollah began preaching his celebrated "dreamer religion, a development of the old Indian idea of spirit.

It borrowed nothing from Christianity; indeed it had its root in bitter enmity toward the white race.

Smohollah lived on the Columbia at least part of the time with a small following of his own branch, it is said, of the Spokane tribe. He held religious dances, presiding over the ceremonies as medicine man and dwelling persistently in his harangues upon a revelation he claimed to have received from the spirit land to the effect that in the near future all the deceased Indians were coming out of their graves with physical bodies and were going to unite with their quick brethren in a tremendous effort to drive the whites from the country.

The Indians of the east were to do likewise and from the Atlantic to the Pacific a high carnival of war was to be held. When the white man were all killed or driven out the barbarism of the ancient days was to be once more established and the Indian was to revel and hunt and roam as in the glorious golden past.

This religion was certainly well calculated to appeal to the Indian imagination, the only objection to it, its utter lack of truth--being a small one to the minds of men long inured to the thralldom of superstition.

The preaching of Smohollah ~~were~~ was not in vain. Considerable excitement was stirred upon among the Indians of the Northwest and these "dreamer doctrines no doubt incited some to take part in the wars of 1877 and 1878 who might otherwise have remained at peace.

That a religion so manifestly absurd should have gained a hearing and a following as recently as the later seventies is good evidence of the hold which the ancient barbarism still had upon the savage mind and

heart. Neither can it be claimed that this hold has yet been loosened, though it is certain that constant contact with the whites is slowly breaking down the power of superstition among the Indians of the Yakima reservation.

This is resulting not so much from direct instructions as from the fact that the two races are fusing their blood so that the number of half breeds and quarter breeds is increasing and the number of pure Indians suffering a corresponding diminution. Of course the more white there is in any individual the greater his affinity for the customs and habits of the whites. Naturally then, the ancient code of laws, the ancient religion with its feasts and dancing and all the ancient observances and customs must soon go into oblivion. The new environment and conditions have already forced great mutations in the life of the Indians and with change of habits must come the decline of the related ceremonials.

Thus it happens that the war dance and the scalp dance have lost their significance and when indulged in at all are merely spectacular performances; indeed the end of Indian wars must soon mean the end of the pow-wows and dances and drills and savage chivalry which are concomitants of Indian belligerence. Other changes in the red men's mode of life are alike inimical to his savage ceremonies.

The policy of gathering Indians upon reservations has in its self, aside from direct efforts to civilize and Christianize them, had a marked effect in destroying the ancient usages; the police now in virtue of inducing the red men to accept lands in severalty and dispose of the surplus to the government will go a long way further in the same direction; yet such is the conservatism of the Indian that we may expect some vestiges of his ancient beliefs, ceremonial observance and superstitions to persist until he shall have drawn his latest breath. Interstate History, 1905

During the summer of 1863 Mr. F.M. Thorp and his family were given reason to believe that a serious difficulty with Indians was about to be experienced.

One day the father and his son, Leonard descried a band of Indians mounted and in full war paint approaching their home. Seized with a sudden alarm they, with Charles Splawn and Mr. Thorp's other sons, Willis and Tayless, hastily hid the women and children and prepared to make as stubborn a defense as possible, taking their stand behind a yard fence.

The Indians rode up rapidly without sign of enmity or hatred. The white men saw when the advancing band came near enough that they were no other than Smohalla, the dreamer, and his following.

Just as the head of the column reached the fence, the older Thorp sprang over, revolver in hand, seized the chief's horse by the bridle and demanded the reason for such a warlike approach.

The dreamer smiled affably, proffering his hand and stated as the reason for his conduct that he had heard of a report current among the whites

to the effect that he was about to overwhelm their settlements with a thousand warriors and had come to reassure them by exhibiting the smallness of his following. After a friendly talk the chief rode away, bowing and smiling but Mr. Thorp always believed that ~~was~~ the ugly looking revolver was really responsible for his apparent friendliness.. The Central Washington history interstate, 1904.

Roslyn--Roslyn coal fields opened to commercial world in fall of 1886. Logan M. Bullitt platted the site. Dedication and filing papers signed in Minnesota, Sept 22, 1886 and filed for record in Kittitas county eight days later. At that time Bullitt was vice president of Northern Pacific Coal company..romantically said to be named for hamlet in Delaware which was christened Roslyn over a century ago (from date 1885). Bullitt christened town August 10, 1886 after town in which his loved one once dwelt dwelled, event duly celebrated and decision made public by a bulletin in the shape of a board on which the name had been inscribed with a pine coal. The bulletin was nailed to a large pine tree which stood on the site of Patrick's business property..Central Washington History, Interstate, 1904.

"In the poetic language of the red man who long since bade the region a fond farewell Ele-Elum or TleOElOLum" as they pronounce it signifies "swift water." The Cle-Elum river from which the town's name has derived debouches into the Yakima about three miles above the city. Quarter section ~~9000000000~~ visited by Thomas L.

Gamble, April 1883 and staked out on the 28th of that month

Second character in the history and man responsible more than anyone else for existence of town is Walter J. Reed, an old friend

of Mr. Gamble and one of North Yakima's founders. They met accidentally in Yakima land office in April, 1883 and entered into agreement that each should assist the other in obtaining land..Central Washington History, Interstate, 1904.