

3701 Commonwealth Rd.

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Oct.25,1964

Mr. Lloyd R. Bell,  
Interpretive Services,  
State Parks and Recreation Commission  
522 South Franklin, Olympia, Wash.

Re:  
Fort Simcoe State Park  
Apples

Dear Lloyd:

There's no particular reason for this letter, other than I've come across material in my files which I believe will be of some interest to you regarding Fort Simcoe State Park.

I mentioned, not long ago when you were in Yakima, that I would send some information. I am satisfied it will stand up generally under cross checking.

Regarding U.S. Grant.

Ulysses S. Grant was a lieutenant when he came to the Oregon country in 1852-53, when he was 30. He was with the 4th Infantry and was regimental quartermaster when stationed at Fort Vancouver.

Grant resigned his commission in 1854, when stationed in California so that he could return to his family in Illinois.

(The above not checked out with my copies of his biography)

Washington Superintendency, microfilm, Roll No. 17:

Yakima Indian Agency, W.T., Fort Simcoe, April 2, 1860

Sir : The first part of the quarter just ended was occupied by the men in Indian Dept. service in feeding and taking care of the animals belonging to the agency; the weather was not very cold, but there was a deep snow on the ground for thirty days. They were then put to procuring rails and poles for fencing, hauling fencing stuff, hauling manure for orchard and gardens, breaking up, fencing and planting out orchard. The orchard consists of 300 trees, mostly apples, was set out in the old parade ground of this post; it will be very valuable to the employee and the Indian of this agency.

After finishing the orchard the men were put to plowing for and sowing wheat and oats, it being necessary to have some provender for animals in actual service.... Very Respectfully, Your Obt. servant, R.H. Lansdale, Indian Agent, W.T. (To Edward R. Geary, Esq. Supt. Ind Affairs, Portland, Ore.)

(And in view of the frequently written about story that James H. Wilbur planted the trees)....

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73, Roll 18, Microcopy 2 p. 176.  
Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland Oregon, Oct. 4, 1860

To the Rt. Rev. A.M.A. Blanchet, bishop of Nesqualy

Sir:

In reply to your note of yesterday just received I would respectfully say that I am advised though not officially that the Rev. M r. J. Wilbur a minister of high character in the Methodist Episcopal Church has received from Dr. Lansdale the agent for the Indians to be located on the Yakama Reservation the appointment of superintendent of teaching in accordance with treaty provisions.

The name of Mr. Wilbur has not yet been submitted to this office for confirmation in the position to which I am informed he has been designated by the agent. But as I can officially make no distinction on account of religious tenents or connections in appointing persons to positions and as Mr. Wilbur has high intellectual, social and moral qualifications fitting him for the position of a teacher I shall most (??undecipherable) confirm the appointment when submitted to me by the agent as it is his duty to do so without delay....

Very Respectfully , etc.

Edward R. Geary, supt. Ind. Affairs.

I hope the above is of general interest to you.

Incidentally, the same roll (about page 196) under date of July 17, 1860 to QM Genl's office, Washington City, from J.E. Johnson, Qm., received Ft. Simcoe, W.T. Sept. 24, 1859 of Lieut J.B.S. Alexander "recommending" that "the quartermaster's property which had been left at Fort Simcoe on the abandonment of that post and which is not worth the cost of transportation elsewhere be sold to E.R. Geary... who is desirous of purchasing... (lists items left, for sale) (This, in case you need check of items there at that time and acquired from Army by Indian service...

List included such things as 5 cords 5 feet 8 inches wood, \$1.50 a cord 2 tables \$5 each 3 wagons worn \$5.00 each; 3 wagons worn \$200; 3 log carts do \$25; 1 ambulance old much worn, springs, axles and wheels good \$100; 3 wagon hammers 75 cents each, 22 pack saddles incomplete \$10 lot, 1 riding do old, worn, worthless; 1 riding bridle old worn, 4 fifth chains "17, 4 spreaders \$1 each...etc.)

Above, could be valuable at some future date if need arises.

Incidentally, too, I've turned over to Dean excerpts from post returns when Simcoe was occupied by military, of soldiers who "died" there. No reference was in the post returns to disposition of the bodies.

Hope your film project is progressing satisfactorily

Sincerely

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