

Indian scares

Yakima City, Aug. 6, 1878

...Since my last communication I learn that Father Wilbur has captured a few of his Indians living on Satass that were supposed to have been connected with some of the depredations committed recently in this county. He is going to hold them in the Skookum house until the matter is investigated...(lots of rumors yet)...(The Indians) are collecting large bands of stolen horses on the Columbia above Priest Rapids and if sufficient force was turned loose from each side of the Columbia, with the gunboats along the Columbia, we could soon make good Indians of all that are on the warpath... Our people have today petitioned the Governor to make a move in this matter. It is to be hoped that he will call out volunteers enough to settle the business in good shape-YA

-- Tacoma Herald, Aug. 16, 1878

Gen. Howard strenuously objects to the Indians east of the mountains being supplied with weapons and ammunition by the whites on this side and he wants the trade stopped at once...The law strictly prohibits commerce of this kind.

-- Tacoma Herald, Aug. 23, 1878

The Indians and whites can never more live peaceably together in the great Yakima country. There is thirst for blood on either side... The arrangements for a general outbreak all over Eastern Washington last month were frustrated, and the Indians are content to await another opportunity to carry on their fiendish work. The whites will "break out" this fall if nothing is done to settle the vexatious Indian problem.

--Tacoma Herald editorial, Sept. 6, 1878

The Walla Walla Union of the 19th inst. has the following:

We learn that the settlers on the Yakima have become frightened, and in apprehension of an outbreak from the Indians have fortified up.

The Indians, it seems, are having some trouble among themselves on religious matters. A part of them are Catholics and a part Methodists, each denomination thinking itself right and as a matter of course the other wrong.

The Indians who were favorable to the Protestant religion are very much displeased with the removal of their former agent and preacher, Rev. J.M. Wilbur and are not at all friendly disposed toward the present agent, Mr. Smith, but are clamorous for the restoration of Wilbur as agent and teacher to them. Those who are of Catholic persuasion are very well satisfied with the way things are now going and as a consequence there is great dissension among the Indians--a little ~~bovine~~ Diwash ecclesiastical row.

They have congregated in the Yakima, and the settlers think they mean war. We think there is no very great probability of an outbreak, and that the gathering is more probably for the purpose of a council among themselves, than for any hostile purpose toward the whites. Weekly Intelligencer, Seattle. April 4, 1870. In Seattle Public Library.

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Indian scares

Moses, the great Indian chief of the Yakimas, is here in the Kittitas and will remain with us this summer to prevent the 'bad Bostons' from again 'breaking out' and making d---d fools of themselves. I have more faith in Moses the Indian than I have in Moses the Israelite. He is a much better leader and has got a good deal more sense.

--Letter from "Shy Low" in Weekly Pacific Tribune
(Seattle) April 3, 1878

On the 3rd Inst. the bill providing for the issue of arms to the territories passed the senate. It authorizes the Secretary of War to cause to be issued to each of the territories of the US (in addition to arms and ammunition the issue of which has been heretofore provided for) such arms not to exceed 1,000 in number... and ammunition for the same not to exceed 50 ball cartridges for each arm... only from arms owned by the government of the US which have been superceded and no longer issued to the army. ~~It is~~ ^{it is} for the protection of citizens and their property against hostile Indians

-- Weekly Pac. Tribune (Seattle) June 19, 1878

Moses and his tribe, including 300 stalwart savages, are now in the Kittitas valley... They are there for two reasons-- one because it is a fine place to spend the summer and the other to keep out of the way of the advancing Bannacks. Their presence does not in any way disturb the white settlers who have every confidence in the peace-abiding promises of the ever-friendly Moses.

-- Weekly Pac. Tribune (Seattle) July 10, 1879

1878

Indian scares

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Frightened people-- Several families came over the mountains from Yakima valley last week, who were frightened from their homes by Indians.

-- Weekly Pac. Tribune, Aug. 7, 1878

102 stands of govt. arms were sent last week from Ft. Vancouver to Yakima City for the protection of the settlers in that exposed locality...40 stands have also been left in Klickitat county...

-- Weekly Pacific Tribune, Aug. 14, 1878

(From Klickitat Sun):

A correspondent of the Bee writes July 31st:

A report was in circulation in the valley last week to the effect that the Simcoe Indians had all left the reservation in the absence of Agent Wilbur and were on the warpath. As yet however, ~~none~~ none of their warpathiness has affected anyone...Several families from the John Day and vicinity have been here with their horses and what few effects they could bring with them. The Chapman boys have returned to their homes on the west fork of the John Day and the Massiker boys with their families to the Haystack valley.

-- Weekly Pac. Tribune (Seattle) Aug. 14, 1878

(fuss over Indian allegedly trying to rape woman. Settlers try to catch him. One hit him such a heavy blow it busted off stock of gun. Indian fled in darkness to reservation)

...The breach between them and the settlers is being widened every day, our informant states, and both parties are arming themselves for an outbreak. Numerous complaints are made against Seattle and other merchants on the Sound, whom the settlers claim are supplying the Indians with all their arms and ammunition they want. ~~They~~ Recently, our informant ~~claims~~ states, an Indian returned via the Snoqualmie pass from this section with 3 kegs of powder on one pack animal.

-- Weekly Pac. Tribune, Oct. 17, 1878

Indian Scare 1873
& "Smokehollow"

There appears to be something brewing between the Indians. In a conversation a few days ago with Capt. John Smith, agent at the Warm Springs, we learned that Smokehollow, a dreamer and a man of much influence with all the tribes between the Cascade and Rocky Mountains, has been preaching for some time to them that in the course of time the spirits of all dead Indians will arise from their graves and assist in exterminating the "faithless invader" from their country and that they will once more become the masters of the land. It is reported that there are over 2,000 Indians congregated at Priest Rapids on the upper Columbia river, followers of this dreamer, Smokehollow.

We are told that Indians belonging to the Simcoe reservation have left the agency and many of them say they will not return.

We don't wish to act the part of an alarmist but...should the Modocs succeed in maintaining their position in the lava bed for any length of time, there is some considerable danger of a general outbreak...

-- The Dalles Mountaineer, April 19, 1873

Indian - White relations

The Dalles, May 13, 1873

(unidentified man writes on attitude of Indians in Yakima country)
...A boy some 15 years old was riding along when he saw two Indians coming down the brow of the hill towards him at full speed. They saw that he was a little frustrated and started talking very loud and saucy to him. He asked them if they were made at him. They replied 'yes', and when he put his spurs to his horse they chased him over 2 miles, yelling and screaming at every jump.

A few days after, a man was leading his horse up a steep hill when he saw 5 Indians riding toward him at full speed, all painted in war colors and screaming at the top of their voices. He mounted his horse, rode towards them, at the same time grasping his revolver in his cantenes (CQ) on the side towards them. They discovered his move and weakened but continued their mad talk...(this man) was the worst-scared man in Yakima county of an Indian outbreak...he slept upstairs and went to bed every night with a Henry rifle, double-barrelled shotgun and a Colt revolver all loaded to the muzzle...

These Indians will huddle around the camps of settlers and talk very saucy and independent and make all manner of gestures evidently to intimidate and scare the whites... ~~some~~

every settler should be fully armed...

-- The Mountaineer, May 17, 1873

Joseph's Band Buys ~~Some~~ Ammo

(From the Lewiston Teller of Feb. 17)

On Wednesday an unusual number of Indians came to town and made extensive purchases from the different stores, and among these was Chief Joseph and several of his men, who said that they were going to lay in all the supplies their money would buy.

Among these demands were powder, caps and cartridges for breech-loading guns. They succeeded in obtaining some of these articles. Several of our traders refused them on suspicion that they were for hostile purposes.

--Walla Walla Union, Feb. 24, 1877

(Earlier story, Jan. 20, told of order for them to move from Wallowa Valley)

Tacoma Reporter's Trip
to Yakima City, 1878

Yakima City Aug. 22, 1878

Our small party reached settlement on the Natchee late Wednesday evening, having been six days out from Tacoma. We had no serious difficulties to encounter while crossing the summit. The trail was rough, rocky and filled with great numbers of logs but there was a remarkable scarcity of mud and high water. Flowers, green grass, huckleberries, thimbleberries, &c, were found in abundance near the summit. We met with several Indian parties who were either in camp or moving into the mountains for berries...

The hostile party there (on the Columbia river) numbers about 150 and is steadily increasing. Howard is expected to undertake capture of this party, which has a large number of stolen horses and cattle...Settlement in this valley has been greatly retarded by the Indian scare. Block houses are pretty numerous and settlers are pretty well prepared for emergencies...But few Indians will go over to the Sound to pick hops this season. They have not the tum tum to do so. Hop picking was begun here on the 18th inst. The yield will be about an average on the 100 acres planted.

Watermelons, roasting ears, tomatoes and cucumbers are found in great abundance. Our appetite has been fully satisfied and we are not well. Messrs. Denton and Lowry of Natchee valley and Mr. Purdin of Wenass valley are responsible for the whole affair...

Mr. Stair & wife, formerly of Tacoma, have...located here... A bridge meeting was held today to take steps toward building a bridge across the Natchee. The people here need a system of roads through the various valleys in order to favor travelers and enhance the value of property.

COOK

-- Tacoma Herald, August 30, 1878

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Indian Scares

(Dec. 1878 report of Indian killed in Klickitat co. and a massacre of some Indians in Idaho)

M Moses is in Yakima City with 3 of his men -- all in jail. The settlers have effectually demoralized the Indians and now desire to have the matter settled in a lawful way. As yet there has not been a shot fired nor a drop of blood spilled.

-- Weekly Pacific Tribune, Dec. 29, 1878

Mrs. Eli Maples, who with her husband and family removed to Yakima county last fall writes to a lady acquaintance ~~min~~ in this city from Ellensburg under date of Dec. 29 (about scare)...

..!The ~~fix~~ fort was so crowded as to be shockingly uncomfortable. We were all packed in like sardines in a box -- men, women and children... We packed up such of our effects as we could and were off on short notice. Immediately the whole population of the valley were on the move -- striking out in all directions toward the fort."

(Chief Moses & some warriors & 5 murderers taken, so the fuss. One alleged murdered committed suicide after capture)

"An Indian war is inevitable next summer; there is bad blood between the Indians and the whites & this will certainly culminate in a hostile collision..."

-- Weekly Pac. Tribune, Jan. 19, 1879

Chief Moses is still in irons.

(Later) Chief Moses has been liberated by orders of the Interior department.

-- Weekly Pac. Tribune, Jan. 26, 1879

Spokane council 1879

Dispatches to the Walla Walla Statesman from Lewiston, Ida., June 18th state that Gen. Howard and Gov. Ferry held a final council at Spokane Falls with Moses, Spokane Geary and Smohalla. The latter renounces his dreamer theories and will go with Moses on the reservation...

--Portland Oregonian, June 20, 1879

Mool Mool

Ft. Simcoe, W.T. Dec. 17, 1884 by J.H.F. Editor Farmer:

IN ~~DO~~ the month of June, 1856, I went in company with a train of commissary supplies escorted by one or two companies of troops to the camp of Col. Wright commanding an expedition to the Yakima Country

His troops, after relieving the Cascades and building the block house on the hill back of Bradford's had been ordered to this valley, the expedition to "alla Walla being for the ~~present~~ pretent abandoned.

It was my first trip north of the Columbia and I remember that as we reached the top of the Klickitat Mountains and saw the valley spread out below us, the bunch grass, then knee high waving in the light breeze and the whole valley carpeted with flowers of every hue. I thought I had never beheld so beautiful a valley.

Our route did not follow the line of the present wagon road from the block house to Fort Simcoe but ascended a spur of the Simcoe range, crossing the summit to the right and descending to the valley of Topnish east of the Simcoe steam saw mill. The trail can easily be seen from Ft Simcoe climbing a steep ridge zig-gag to avoid the exceedingly steep grade. We camped on the Topnish the first night after leaving the Dalles and next day struck out across the valley, making our camp on the Antanum, one or two miles above the old Mission. As Indians were known to be in the vicinity we had seen them at a distance all day, no one had curiosity enough to visit the site. The building, I think, had been burned

The next night we camped on the Cowichiee and at about 10 a.m. of the eighth day entered the camp of Col. Wright at what was called the "basket fort" on the Natchez river. The river was too high to ford and the Indians from the opposite side kept up a constant and annoying fire on every soldier who ventured near the bank.

Orders had been issued that no reply was to be made but many officers and soldiers were unable to resist the temptation to accept the challenge of the Indians and the result was a constant interchange of shots. To provide a depot for his supplies in case the water fell sufficiently to cross, the Colonel had caused a breast-work about 50 feet square to be built, the top of which was surmounted by a row of gabions, or willow baskets filled with earth. This gave the place its name. The troops remained at the Natchez till the river fell somewhat when a detachment crossed and found the Indians gone, bag and baggage.

As a part of his duty was to select a site for a military post, to keep those Indians in subjection, the reservation was examined for a suitable location and a point on the Topnish near where it makes the bend eastward selected. One day, however, Sergeant Kohlhauf, now street commissioner at Spokane Falls with a small party while hunting, visited the place where Fort Simcoe is now stationed. The pleasant shade of the oak trees and the presence of two immense springs satisfied them that it was a far more suitable location for the post than the site on the Topnish.

They returned to camp and reported their discovery and the result was the definite location of the intended post on the present site.

The Indians called the place "mool mool" meaning I believe, "the place where water rises from the ground".

The site having been selected several companies under Major Robert Baines Garnett, afterwards killed at Carrick's Ford in West Virginia, were left to put up the buildings. The first step was to prepare for the winter. A part of the command in tents and hunt huts made of sticks and mud were put up for the balance. In the meantime a location for a sawmill was selected and a party was detailed to look out a route for a wagon road. The road was not completed that season, the great difficulty being to find a

practicable point to descend the mountain to the topnish.
 It taxed the energies of the Quarter master at The Dalles, Cap.
 Thomas Jordan, to find transportation sufficient to get the
 winter supplies for the troops in before the route should be closed
 by the deep snow. Fortunately the snow did not fall to a great
 depth till late in December. The last train of some 400 pack
 animals delivered their loads about the 20th and started on their
 return by way of the Sattas canyon. Near the head of the Sattas
 the snow became too deep for further travel and the whole party
 were compelled to stop and make snow shoes on which to make their
 way to The Dalles. I remember them as they came straggling in
 from two to ten in a party, nearly exhausted and starved. It was
 a wonder that some were not lost but my recollection is that
 all finally made their appearance, though several had a very
 NARROW ~~DISASTROUS~~ ESCAPE

In the spring the wagon road was completed and the work of
 building the post commenced in earnest. In May the first train
 of wagons that ever entered Simcoe Valley, I crossed the mountains.
 The road substantially followed the old trail but descended the
 mountain not far from where the road now comes in. With the same train
 also, Maj. Garnett brought to the post his newly made bride, a
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 g. was on
 Mrs. Garnett
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From this time till 1860 Fort Simcoe experienced the usual routine of a frontier post in time of peace. Many of the officers were from the south and at the breaking out of the rebellion united their fortunes with the Southern Confederacy. When the administration of Lincoln had fairly made up their line of policy, it was important that every trained soldier should be at the point where hostilities were likely to commence, consequently every frontier post that could safely be abandoned was stripped and the troops were ordered east.

The Yakima nation had in good faith accepted the situation and this post was abandoned and turned over to the Indian bureau. This was done however before the breaking out of the war 1860. Dr. Lousdale now I believe at Puget Sound was the first agent here. In the winter of 1860 and 1861 he was removed and the agency was administered by sub agents till the inauguration of Lincoln when a Mr. Bancroft of California was appointed agent. He held the position until some time in 1862 when at the earnest request of Senator Nesmith, Rev. James H. Wilbur who was then in Washington having been called on to express his views on the Indian service, consented to accept the position. He had previously occupied the position of superintendent of school and many of the best men of the reservation are the product of his training. His long and SUCCESSFUL ADMINISTRATION is too well known to need relation-- suffice it to say that what the Yakima Indians possess of thrift, industry, capacity, civil action and Christianity they owe to his unselfish labors. -The Washington Farmer, Christmas Day, 1884-

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Ft. Simcoe, W.T., Dec. 17, 1884, by J.H.F., Editor, Farmer