

Roll 23

Records of the Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs,
1853-1874

Miscellaneous Letters Received August 22, 1853-April
9, 1861. The National Archives. Washington: 1945

On this roll are reproduced the letters received from Isaac I. Stevens, Governor and ex-officio Superintendent of Indian Affairs of Washington Territory, and the letters relative to Washington Territory received from James W. Nesmith and the Reverend Edward R. Geary, superintendents of Indian Affairs for Oregon and Washington, from writers other than the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and officials or other employees of the Superintendency assigned to its local jurisdictions August 22, 1853 - April 9, 1861.

Most of the letters are from the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Oregon (before June 1857), from officers of the United States Army and the Washington Territorial Volunteers, from applicants for employment, from friends or enemies of such applicants, and from citizens presenting claims, complaints or suggestions.

..... Since the letters reproduced on this roll are not numbered, they may be cited by writer and date, as follows: National Archives, records of the Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs, Letters received (miscellaneous), John Doe to Superintendent, May 1, 1855

Washington Supt'cy. Miscellaneous Letters Rec'd. No. 5, Roll 23

Copy: House Representatives March 30, 1850. Hon R. McClellan Sir:

Will you be kind enough to inform me if your Department will enable you to do so, whether at the time of the organization of the Territories of Oregon, Utah and New Mexico and particularly of Oregon, the Indians in those Territories occupied, professed or claimed title to the whole of the Territories--? Whether the profession of the different tribes in each bounded on each other?--or if not about how much in each Territory was not possessed by the Indians at the time of its organization

With great respect

I am sir etc. etc.

R. W. Peekham

(signed)

Application for licence to Gov. Isaac I. Stevens of Washington Territory to trade with the Flathead and Pend d'Orille Indians in the St Mary's Valley and the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane Indians on Spokane River hereby makes application to you for a license to trade with the tribes aforesaid. ~~I~~ He proposes to employ a capital of four thousand dollars and the following men, Francois Fader, Baptiste ~~Uain~~ Lolo as laborers. Fort Owen, St. Mary's Valley W.T. (?) B. Owen, Sept. 29, 1852 (Sic)

(Copy of license tetc. to W.B. Owen, S. Mary's Valley, Oct 1, 1853 (sic)

Extract of a letter from Supt. Indian affairs, Oregon Territory to the Indian Bureau, Washington City, dated July 8, 1853

"The attention of the Department is solicited to the fact that the 46th deg of North Latitude -the designated boundary between Oregon and Washington Territories, traverses the territories of several Indian tribes- the Walla Wallas, Cayuses, Nez Perces and others east of these, thus placing a ~~different~~ portion of each tribe in different superintendencies.

It is probable that the greater part of the Cayuse country is south of the territorial boundary while ~~an~~ large part of that of the Walla Walla is north.

The location of the country of the Nez Perces is not well ascertained, some contending that their whole country is north of the 46th parallel and others that a considerable part is on the south side.

Such instructions from the Department are required as may present a conflict of jurisdiction in the premises (?) between the superintendency & that of Washington Territory.

The boundaries between the Cayuses and the Walla Wallas are not well defined and a misunderstanding exists between them and in regard to a considerable tract of country within the limits of this territory. The interposition of the government to adjust the difficulty may be called for at an early day.

I would suggest the importance of early negotiations with the Walla Wallas, Cayuses, Nez Perces, Wascopams and Deschutes or Fall River Indians for the extinguishment of their titles respectively to the Territory held by them within the limits of this Territory. This would secure to us the country traversed by the route of emigration and include extensive tracts of country well adapted to pasturage

and agriculture which already attract notice and will be soon occupied by our enterprising citizens. The settlement of the whites there, without the consent of the Indians, would instantly provoke their hostility and legislation to provide for treating with these tribes on the subject of ceding their lands will claim the early attention of congress."

Extract of letter of July 8th, 1853 from Supt. Indian Affairs O.T. to Indian Bureau Dept. Washington City.

Washington Superintendency, letters received, no. 5, roll 23

Be it known that (Mas?) B. Owen at St. Mary's Valley having filed his application before me for a license to trade with the Flathead and Pend Oreille Indians in the St. Mary's Valley and the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane Indians on the Spokane River and having executed and filed with me a bond in the final sum of five thousand dollars with D.L. Arnold and (W or L) B. Lander as sureties conditioned as required by law for the faithful performance of all the laws and regulations ~~from~~ provided of the government, of trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes and reposing especial trust and confidence in the patriotism humanity and correct business habits of the said applicant and being satisfied that he is a citizen of the U. States as required by law he is authorized to carry on the business of trading with the said tribes of Flatheads and Oreilles, Coeur d'Alene and Spokane Indians for the term of one year from the date hereof and to keep in his employ the following named persons or any of them in the capacities affixed to their names, respectively viz Francois Fader, Baptiste and Lo Lo laborers all of which persons I am satisfied from my own knowledge or from testimonials which have been placed in my hands sustain a fair character and are fit persons to be in the Indian country. Given under my hand and seal this first day of October, eighteen hundred & fifty three. Fort Owen St. Mary's Valley W.T.

Olympia Dec. 15, 1853

Gov. I.I. Stevens

Dear Sir:

Your note of yesterday has been received accompanied by two letters addressed you from Bellingham Bay. ^{Is} Besides the information contained in these letters I have learned today from Captain Slater and two other gentlemen direct from Bellingham ^{'s} Bay that the facts of the difficulty which recently occurred there between some white men and Indians were these--

That a man by the name of Hedges on returning home discovered that an Indian had broken open his house, when hereafterward undertook to chastise, when other Indians interfered, one of them stabbing him severely and then shooting and dangerously wounding a Mr. Barnes who had come to the rescue of Hedges. The same Indian has threatened to take the lives of both Hedges and Barnes and they avow the same intentions toward him.

Capt. Slater of the Sloop, Sarah Stone will leave for Bellingham's Bay tomorrow and says that he can easily take the Indian and that...
...(cut off of bottom of letter) do so and bring him to Steilacoom where he can be kept in custody until trial. I would suggest that he be deputized by the marshal and given authority to perform this duty as this I think will be the best and surest means of arresting him. It is necessary to do this or take some other prompt course in order to prevent further difficulty and bring the guilty parties to justice.

Yours truly J.S. Clendenin

U.S. Clendenin, Olympia Dec. 15, 1853. Indian difficulties at Bellingham Bay.

Office Superintendent of Indian
Affairs, Dayton O.T. Dec. 26, 1853

Sir:

Your letter of the 7th instant inquiring whether I had received instructions from the Department to act as superintendent of Indian Affairs in Washington Territory till your arrival or had received an official notification of the removal of Mr. Starling from office, has this day been received.

In reply I beg leave to refer you to a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs of March 6, 1853, a copy of which I inclose.

You will perceive that I was instructed in said letter to direct the predecessors of the respective appointees to turn over to them all moneys and other public property in their hands, upon...executing ~~executing~~ to them the proper receipt therefor.

Mr. Thompson being absent in the states and the time of his arrival uncertain and believing it conducive to the general interest of Indian affairs under the authority of discretionary power granted in instructions of that office in regard to changing the designation of agents, I assigned Mr. Garrison instead of Mr. Thompson to relieve Mr. Starling as contemplated in the accompanying letter. Mr. Garrison accordingly called upon Mr. Starling, the result of which you are already advised. He then returned to his office for additional instructions but has subsequently resigned, leaving a vacancy in that district.

I am sir, very respectfully

your obt. servt.

Joel Palmer

superintendent.

His excellency

I.S. Stevens, Supt. Ind. Affairs.

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Steilacoom W.T. Dec. 26, 1853

Gov. Stevens, dear sir:

After meeting with you last week I received your highly communication and be assured that the contents are duly appreciated.

Do not consider me out of place and taxing your mind when I say to you that at present it is very difficult for a clergyman to get a subsistence in this county. The salary that I receive is ~~hardly~~ scarcely half sufficient for my support and I have no claims on the people for more than a mere salutary contribution. The thought has occurred to me that (as I am and shall be identified with the Democratic party) if you could find it convenient at some time in future to give me an appointment in this Territory as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, as an Indian Agent or any other office that you might see proper to bestow upon me would aid me pecuniarily and yet enable me to preach every sabbath. I send in this my voucher from the church given me by Bishop Waugh. You will see in this way character to some extent. Please send it back by return mail. I do not ask any answer to this matter now but leave it with you for future consideration.

I have come here to remain to take an active part in the up building of the country. If you cannot confer any favors as I have intimated or spoken of, the subject I shall not consider myself You of course will say nothing of as to my application for aid.

yours in haste

J.F. Devon (or Devore)

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Marmosa Delingham Bay Dec. 31, 1853

Gov. I.I. Stevens:

Dear Sir

I received your kind letter by the hand of Mr. (?) and I am glad to see that the matter concerning the Indians has been so promptly attended to. Lieut. Russel arrived here on Thursday and by prudence and energy has succeeded in securing the Indian. I have been informed by those who know this Indian that he has previous to this affair ~~borne~~ borne the character of a peaceable Indian but was provoked by Mr. Hedge who came into his camp. I presume the truth will be known on his trial. With regard to those persons who have been engaged in the traffic of ardent spirits among the Indians we are unable to produce any positive evidence against them but by proper vigilance hereafter we shall be able to detect them.

I am pleased to know that you have made so successful an expedition across the ~~continent~~ continent. I hope the result of it will be a railroad to our new territory. I will at some future time give you some description of the country around this bay and the Indian tribes residing here. I am much pleased with the country and believe it possesses prospects for business not surpassed by any portion of the Pacific coast.

Your sincere friend

Warren Holt

Office Superintendent of Indian Affairs

Dayton O.T. Jany. 10th, 1854

Dear sir:

Your letter of the ? instant requesting such information as may be in this office in respect to the management of the Indian tribes inhabiting the confines of the two territories in particularly in both jurisdictions, is this day received, and I cheerfully comply with your request so far as any statistical information desired from the records can be obtained.

The reports of General Lane and Lt. Dart late supt. differ in their estimates so materially in regard the numerical strength of the Walla Wallas, Nez Perces and Cayuses as to leave the subject in much uncertainty and the agent in that district has not yet reported to this office his estimate of the number of these tribes.

General Lane estimated the Walla Wallas at one thousand, Dr. Dart at one hundred and thirty! I am at a loss to account for such a discrepancy since no fatal malady raged in this tribe during the interval between the two enumerations to have so greatly reduced it, and my impression is that while the estimate of Gen. Lane is too high, that of Dr. Dart is too low.

The boundary between the Walla Wallas and Cayuses is not well definite but it is thought that but a small part of the territory of the former, if any, is within the limits of this territory. In General Lane's report the Walla Wallas are said to possess the country on the Columbia near Fort Walla Walla. Dr. Dart says they live principally on the waters of Walla Walla river.

My understanding of their boundary as derived from members of the tribe in 1848 is as follows:

Commencing on the south side of the Columbia river a short

distance above the mouth of the Uilla, it runs easterly so as to cross the Walla Walla about ten or twelve miles above Fort Walla Walla, thence northeasterly to the Snake river about twenty or twenty five miles from its mouth, thence down said river and across the Columbia to a point about 20 miles west of the last named river; thence southwesterly to the mouth of the first stream emptying into the Columbia on the north side, a little above the mouth of John Day's river.

In speaking of the Nez Perces Gen. Lane states that they "inhabit a large portion of the country on the Snake, Clear Water and Salmon rivers," and he estimates their total number at fifteen hundred. Dr. Dart says "they occupy a large tract of country north and east of the Cayuses and Walla Wallas" and "are divided into fifteen bands which number in all 1880 souls." Their boundaries as I have understood them commenced on the south side of Snake river at the boundary of the Wallawallas, thence westerly with that boundary to the Too-shi or Toocannon river, I am not certain which, thence by the stream to the Blue Mountains thence crossing said mountains diagonally to Snake River about forty miles above the mouth of Salmon river, thence first in an easterly direction and then ~~northwesterly~~ northerly crossing Salmon river and Clear Water or KooKooskie river to the boundary of the Paloosies who inhabit the country in the fork of Snake and Columbia rivers; thence upon the boundary of the last named tribe westerly to Snake river ten or twelve miles below the Red Wolf's grounds which is about two miles below the Fluted Rocks. As to their numbers I do not think Gen. Lane's estimate sufficiently high. Their principal villages are south of Snake and Kooskooskie rivers. The largest band perhaps is known as Elli's band, till his death their head chief, reside on Salmon river. It is understood that the Nez Perces and Cayuses claim jointly the Grande Ronde, but neither tribe has unless

Congress at this session to authorize Treaties for the extinguishment of title to their lands with the tribes in Middle Oregon, I would suggest it as best to make no change in the management of these tribes till the action of congress is known.

The Nez Perces have long desired the residence of an agent among them; the distance from their extreme eastern settlements to the Agency on Uvilla is not less than two hundred miles, hence it may be necessary ~~to~~ ultimately to establish an agency or sub agency among the Upper Nez Perces.

The Nez Perces are at present without a head chief, and it is possible they may be induced to ~~separate~~ divide so to place all on the North side of the Snake and Koos Kooskie rivers in a separate agency embracing all the country between these streams the Spokane and Columbia Rivers.

The organization of the Washington Territory and the great advantages held out to settlers will undoubtedly induce emigrants to seek a more direct and better route to the settlements than the circuitous and tedious old wagon road to Walla Walla. One of these routes will probably leave the old road at Fort Boise and by continuing down the north side of Snake river through the settlement of the Nez Perces on Salmon river cross to the Spokane or pass by a more direct route over the Spokane plains to the Columbia, the former however would most likely be taken as settlements will I doubt not, soon be formed on the Spokane. Another route will probably leave the old road as far back as Fort Wall and by a pass through Salmon River mountains arrive at the waters of Salmon river and thence to the KooKooskie and descending that stream to a convenient point pass to the headwaters of the Spokane. Explorations in that part of the country during the coming spring and summer might enable us to act more understandably in the establishment of agencies and determine the localities in which to colonize the Indian tribes should that policy be adopted

the government.

The rank of the incumbent at ~~Walla~~ Utila is that of a full agent. The agency buildings erected by direction of my predecessor cost over three thousand dollars; it is a mere shell and the only advantage in its location is its being on the thoroughfare of emigration.

Should the three tribes spoken of be assigned to one agency the agent's residence should be as far east as the Tookannon or ~~Tushix~~ Tooshi.

I regard it of little consequence under which superintendency the agency is established, maybe placed and as it is believed the largest of these tribes resides in Washington Territory it would probably be better to place it under your jurisdiction. It is proper to say that these tribes are sufficiently distinct to be treated withal (?) separately if it be found desirable to do so.

The agency at Utila is the only one in the Middle and Upper Oregon.

I enclose you an extract from my letter to the Department of the 8th inst. last on the subject of boundary between the two Territories and that of entering into treaties with the Indians of middle Oregon.

I am sir, very respectfully

Your obt. servant

Joel Palmer

Supt. Ind. Affairs

To his excellency

I.I. Stevens, Gov. Wn. Territory.

Ex-off & supt. Ind. Affairs.

Olympia, W.T.

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Chenook, Jan. 15, ~~1854~~ 1854

Pacific County, W.T.

Sir:

In compliance with your request I have sent you a list of the Chenook Indians as they are at present on Chenook Beach. In fishing season, there are ~~xxxx~~ perhaps three times the number who reside mostly in Shoal Water bay during winter. Those here are in a most deplorable condition from the great faculties they have of procuring rum as a specimen I may mention that the day after court was held here McCarty whom you know sent four fine young fellows that lived with him to Clatsop for three barrels of salmon. Mr. ~~xxxx~~ Lamly who was taking Judge Monroe and Mr. Glendinen across to Astoria met the Indians returning, all in a state of drunkenness. Nothing more was ever seen or heard of them till the canoe was found adrift on Clatsop shore. They of course all perished. If I can makemyself useful in any other way you may com and my services.

Yours Respectfully

George D. Anson

P.S. There are two or three females keeping house for white men who are not included in the list.

Chenook Indians

Elliwaugh & mother (considered the chief)

Lqua-qua-wife 1 man slave

Lla-Wwaugh-wife, Laquass's (daughter)

Lacklige (a young man)

Naugh-ulgh do

Hauxout do

Slave (female)

Yewesest (a young woman)

Bull or Luckah, wife . Helen(daughter) 2 slaves.

Awass, wife & child & slave.

Stugh & wife.

Howksill wife & child.

Floux & wife.

Lawhatkane wife mother child 2 slaves

Utlmich & wife

Pughanawak wife ' slave

Washiss & child

Quit-y-amath (a young man)

Haquilis (female)

Maxquitts (a young man)

Francis do

Wapp 3 children

Yousik wife sister & child

Charlie (a young man)

Challale wife & child

Hayema (a young man)

Haquisah do

Walliwalk (a young woman)

3 females one child (at McCarty's portage)

Census of Chinooks Feby. 1854

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Chenook, Pacific County, Washington Territory, Jan. 30th, 1854

His excellency: Gov. I.I. Stevens, governor of Washington Territory.

We the petitioners, citizens of Chenook and vicinity, would respectfully represent to your excellency the propriety of appointing a sub Indian agent at this point as we are so peculiarly situated, isolated and distant from the executive office of the Territory and in the midst of a heavy population of Indians whose welfare is not cared for, nor the white settlers is repose undisturbed and it would be much to the interests of this country to have an agent ~~appointed~~ upon the grounds to look after the welfare of the Indians as they are often times misused and no chance of redress which causes a bad feeling and we would recommend Hiram M. Brown as a suitable man for sub agent He lives at Chinook and also a gentleman of high moral worth and your early action we will ever pray.

Washington Hall, Cornelius White, Lano (?) Lindsey, John Crellin, Chas. Poroeh (or Doroeh) John Fras??, Cole Lainley, William McCart, P. Wilson, William W. Wilson, S.S. M. VanCleave, James Scarborough, George D. Anson, W.W. ????? (two names undecipherable) Valentine L. Russell, I.E. Pickernell(?) T.G. No???