

## Indians

### Reservation

Charles Lombard, the Herald's correspondent at Fort Simcoe, sends the following figures regarding the condition and character of lands of the Yakima Indian reservation:

The original reservation, according to the treaty of 1855, contained 829,000 acres of land. Of this the Indians have under fence in the Simcoe valley about 23,000 acres; in the neighborhood of the churches, 16,000 acres; on Toppenish creek, 48,000; at Toppenish station 61,000 acres; at Satus 23,000 acres and at Fort Simcoe and in the canyons 32,000 acres.

This gives a total of 203,000 acres which covers nearly all of the tillable land within the reservation. If water could be obtained about as much more could be made arable but it lies so high that artesian wells seems to be the only means of bringing life to this arid, sage brush plain.

The balance, or about one-half of the reservation is mountainous and could never be made available for agriculture. Nearly 100,000 acres have been cut from the reservation by the new boundary lines run on the west side last year by the government, under pressure of the whites."--Yakima Herald, March 24, 1892.

On April 11th the Indians of the Yakima reservation will hold an election for members of a council of ten before whom will soon be brought the question of the allotment of lands in severalty.

It is expected that a vote favorable to the proposition will be obtained before the year closes, as many of those who were among the strongest in opposition at the council with General Packer last year, have been brought over to the other side and the great majority

now seem to be in favor of an early settlement of the question--  
Yakima Herald, March 24, 1892.

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## Fort Simcoe

J.A. Leonard, special Indian agent has been with us for a week or more and it is hoped that his report will encourage the commissioners in ordering some improvements, repairs and fresh paint for this naturally beautiful place.

Col. Rankin, assisted by Surveyor Guiland is allotting the Indians their lands in severalty and definitely establishing their lines. He commenced at the west edge and will complete his work as he goes.

The Methodist campmeeting commences at Stwierville on the 21st. ✓

J.P. Mattoon, the mail carrier, is very obliging to the agency employes in the way of doing errands.

Cashier Steinweg and wife accompanied by the Misses Sawyer, Jennie Wright and Dollie Barker of North Yakima visited the agency Saturday and remained until Sunday noon.

The boys in the Indian school have, under the guidance of their industrial teacher, George Mattoon, planted and cultivated some good gardens this season.

John W. Clendenning of Chattanooga, Tenn. is the last appointee as a teacher in the Indian school. His family will join him in July--Yakima Herald, June 9, 1892.

Knye-Knyo.

## Resevertion

Judge Erwin left for Portland Wednesday to purchase a threshing ~~machine~~ outfit for use on the reservation. He says the Indians will have 100,000 bushels of grain this season--  
August 5, 1897.

Indians

Railway

The Northern Pacific road has paid into the treasury \$8,295.80 for right of way across the Yakima Indian reservation.

Five thousand three hundred and nine of this sum will be deposited in the treasury for the benefit of the Indians , while the balance will be expended among individual Indians under the secretary's directions--Yakima Herald, June 11, 1893.

John Wyanno, the Yakima Indian who killed his brother, Teniana Kotieana last fall by beating him over the head with a rock tied up in a handkerchief, was found guilty by the U.S. court at Walla Walla and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary--Yakima Herald, May 11, 1893.



## Indians

### Reservation

U.S. Deputy Surveyor and Inspector J.E. Noel of Tacoma, under orders from the surveyor-general of Washington, has been, during the past two weeks, inspecting the south and west boundaries of the Yakima Indian reservation surveyed by Deputy J.A. Schwartz last fall and reports that the lines are correctly run and located by proper marks easily distinguished, and that it will be to the interest of all parties concerned to perpetuate the marks--Yakima Herald , August 13, 1891.

Indians

Reservation

Toppenish, June 6--Since the days when the Yakima Indian reservation was organized, the Indian population on it has decreased almost 50 per cent , Superintendent Don M . Carr told the members of the Toppenish Commercial club at their meeting this moon.

Carr gave a most interesting account of the early history of the reservation and illustrated the points he made by reading from some of the older reports.

Originally about 14 tribes were located on the Reservation which was created in 1855. At that time there were about 4,000 Indians in the district. Allotments, made with the idea of breaking up the tribal organization were assigned in 1892, 1894 and 1896. About 4,700 allotments were assigned then, but many of them were never taken up.

~~000004,700 allotments were~~ One Indian chief, who was promised a house and \$500 yearly turned down this wealth to retain his home at White Bluffs, Carr stated. The government, on opening up the reservation pledged itself to build and operate saw mill, grist mill and schools for not less than 10 years and actually maintained all of these for not less than 20.

It was estimated that there are now between 2,200 and 2,500 Indians on the reservation-- Yakima Republic, Wednesday June 6, 1923.



Indian

Reservation

Si Wiley , who occupied the position of farmer and Frank Sinclair, the blacksmith of the Yakima reservation, have resigned--Yakima Herald, October 2, 1890.

The lower house of congress has passed the senate bill granting right of way over the Yakima Indian reservation to the Northern Pacific and Yakima irrigation company, Yakima Herald, October 2, 1890.

H.A. Griffin has on exhibition at his store an Indian war jacket of finely tanned ~~buckskin~~ buckskin closely embroidered with beads. It was taken from Sittin Bull's daughter and presented to Mrs. Griffin by Gen. Miles--Yakima Herald , October 2, 1890



## Reservation

### Roads

Many complaints are being made concerning the terrible condition of the wagon road across the reservation toward the Klickitat country and the question arose as to whether or not the county commissioners had authority to use public money in its improvement.

While they may not be able to do this, they could probably aid largely in having reservation authorities to give that important thoroughfare much needed attention.

North Yakima is profoundly interested in that road in a business way.

People come from 40 to 80 miles to trade here, but those who, to get here, have to travel that road have begun to look about for another trade center.

There are five or six bridges across the Satus, all of which were recently washed out by the high water.

The timber used in their construction could be used again if preserved, but it is said that it is being carried down the turbulent stream and scattered along its banks or being taken away by the Indians.

This certainly should not be allowed. But the stream is almost impassable.

The mud is deep, the banks precipitous and the water high. Effort should be made at once to put it in better condition.

Possibly Agent Erwin is the proper authority to look after it and if his attention were directed to its condition, he undoubtedly would, if possible and proper, repair it. At all events people in the lower end of the county are wailing and gnashing their teeth over the hardships and look Yakimward for assistance-Herald, December 14. 1893.

## Indian Reservation

Prof. Berhnardt of Washington D.C. is in the city. He goes soon to the reservation to resurvey the west boundary lines of the Yakima Indian reservation. He will consume about a month's time in the work.

The Indians claim that the Klickitat boundary is wrong that in consequence they have been deprived of a hundred thousand acres of land or more and they are entitled to it under the treaty--Yakima Herald, Sept. 14, 1899.

## Indian bibliographical

War with Yaquis. Page account with illustrations, Sept. 14, 1899, Herald.



## MILROY REPEATS STORIES OF FATHER WILBUR'S DAY

Young Visitor to Fort Astonished by Methodist Preacher's Agility; Tells of Firmness in Administration

Among the men who were prominent in the early development on the Yakima Indian reservation, James H. Wilbur, Indian agent at Fort Simcoe, was outstanding said R. B. Milroy, Yakima county court commissioner, who related interesting anecdotes of Father Wilbur, as he was popularly known.

Father Wilbur came to Fort Simcoe in 1860 to take charge of the schools on the reservation. Being a Methodist preacher, he established several Methodist churches, one of them at White Swan. Four years after coming to the reservation, he was made Indian agent and continued in that position for 20 years until relieved by Gen. R. H. Milroy, Milroy's father.

"Father Wilbur was a large man, even larger than my father, who was six feet two inches," said Milroy. "He was active physically, and at one time I was astonished at his agility. I had accompanied my father on a trip to Walla Walla, Fort Colville and Fort Simcoe, and we were met at Simcoe by my mother and my younger brother.

"My father and Father Wilbur were standing at the picket fence inclosing the square at the fort while my brother and I were playing tag. As we came close to them, Father Wilbur said, 'See if you can catch me.' Being only a few feet from him, I made a lunge for him, but he made a quick jump and cleared the fence with the greatest ease.

"Father Wilbur dealt with the Indians fairly but with firmness and dispatch. There was an Indian who was rebellious and left the reservation occasionally with his band. Father Wilbur sent word to him to report at the fort, but the Indian refused.

"He fancied that he possessed supernatural powers, so when Father Wilbur threatened to come and get him he told his followers that all he had to do was to stretch out his hand and Father Wilbur would sink down and die. The Indian agent set out for the camp of the renegade Indian accompanied by several Indian police.

"The band was camped on the east side of the Yakima river not far from Toppenish. Father Wilbur crossed the stream in a skiff. Noting the approach of the Indian agent, the Indian told his followers to gather close around as he then would have greater strength in working his magic.

"Father Wilbur walked up and demanded of the Indian that he come out and when he refused to do so, he pushed the braves aside and grabbed the culprit, took him with him to Fort Simcoe and put him in jail. He talked to the Indian and prayed with him till he converted him.

"An Irishman opened a saloon on the north bank of Ahtamm creek and sold liquor to the Indians. Father Wilbur sent him word to get away from there, but the Irishman stayed. Thereupon the Indian agent went to the place accompanied by a few Indian police. They entered the saloon and walked up to the bar.

"The Irishman grabbed for his revolver, but Father Wilbur was too quick for him and got hold of it first. Vaulting over the bar, he grabbed the Irishman and threw him out of the place, and the Indian police laid hold of him. He was taken to Simcoe and thrown in jail, although his place of business was not on the reservation.

"Under the influence of Father Wilbur, the Irishman mended his ways and became a close friend of the Indian agent. At the time of our visit to Simcoe, this man ran the ferry on the Columbia river where we crossed in returning to Olympia. Father Wilbur told my father that the ferryman would not charge him anything, and we later learned that he did not charge any person anything who was a friend of Father Wilbur."



Stick Joe, who later became one of the judges of the reservation court under Gen. Milroy's administration, was with Maj. Granville Hellen on his expedition to the reservation in 1855 before Fort Simcoe had been built. Stick Joe was a California Indian who for some reason did not want to remain with his own people.

He was careful never to tell the Yakima Indians that he was with Haller's force, but he disclosed the fact when taking Milroy to The Dalles with a team and buckboard in 1884. He then related the incident of the battle of Toppenish creek in which Haller was defeated and forced to retreat to the Dalles.

Stick Joe pointed out the place where Haller and his men spent a portion of the night following the battle. The place was a patch of timber two-thirds up the side of the mountain with bare ground around. It is directly south of Fort Simcoe, and may be seen today.

A number of pack mules loaded with provisions were captured by the Indians during the fight, and the assumption is that this loot, together with the desire of the Indians to celebrate following their victory accounted for the fact that they did not follow up their advantage.

Haller slipped away during the night and gained a sufficient start of the Indians so there was no further encounter with them. The cannon and such other equipment as could not be taken along on the hasty retreat were buried on the side of the mountain at the place where the soldiers spent a portion of the night.

In relating the incidents of the fight on Toppenish creek, Stick Joe was persistent in talking Chinook instead of English, although he could speak English fairly well. Stick Joe was a small man and had a crippled leg, making necessary the use of a cane. Due to his wise counsel he became highly respected among the Indians and was recognized as a sub-chief.

Joe Stwire, who was chief of the Yakima and Klickitat Indians on the reservation court, was a giant in stature. In any of the councils of the Indians his advice

generally was followed, especially if he was supported by Stick Joe and Eneas, the other members of the court, Stwire had a ranch at White Swan, and Stick Joe had a place close to him.

Calvin Hale, an educated halfbreed Indian, had a ranch on the south side of Simcoe creek. Abraham Lincoln, who had been away to an Indian college, was among the first to develop a farm in the White Swan district. On Ahtanum creek, Yallup was the leader among the Indians.

Tom Pearne was an educated Indian who became a Methodist preacher at White Swan. He married a half-breed Indian woman and lived in a very good house. George Waters, an educated Indian with some white blood, had a ranch in the same neighborhood. He was an admirer of Stwore and when the latter died he took the name George Stwire Waters.

—unidentified newspaper clipping  
dated Sunday, June 18, 1933



The present agent, Mr. Lynch, is on his second term, having been superseded during the Cleveland regime by Mr. Erwin. His residence in that of the old commandant of the post was built in 1857 at the cost of about \$60,000. This structure has a semi-gothic front and has the liberal proportions of former days. It is of two stories and the entrance brings one into a wide hall which extends to the depth of the house. On each side there are commodious rooms and the floor above is nearly a repetition of that of the ground.

Almost every room is provided with a large fire place and more comfortable quarters it is difficult to conceive. The great cost of the building is due to the conditions prevailing at the time of its construction. The latticed windows, the doors and much of the lumber were brought on ship around the Horn and packed on mules from The Dalles. No expense was spared and gay times were said to have prevailed while the Virginians occupied these quarters.

Sherman, Sheridan and Grant are said to have been entertained there before they attained their later greatness. Column after column could be written under this head but traditions and other details must be left for another time on account of limited space.

—THE YAKIMA REPUBLIC  
September 1, 1899