

1020 No 4 at

Tacoma Wash

June 17, 1914

Dear Friend Cyrus,

I see by looking at your last letter that I have been rather neglectful in replying to some of your inquiries. Were it not for my want of strength and money I should now do what I presume you are doing, wending my way to attend the Pioneer reunion at Portland but I have to forego that pleasure for this time.

I have been enjoying reading your memoirs printed in the Rural Oregonian very much indeed. I was today ^{enjoying it} by reading that article [&] going over in my mind the trips I made to Birch Creek, and the logs we laid up for the commencement of a cabin so you could take up a claim, or prevent some-one else from doing so. Those were days so long ago, and I love to call them to mind.

At last the arrangements have been made to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Ellis and Wither mission in Washington. It is to be in connection ^{with} and a part of the Washington Congregational Conference to be held at Bourton July 22-29, 1914. These services will be Sunday P. M. at 3 o'clock the 26th of July. Anything you can furnish will be most acceptable. I do not know that I can suggest anything, in fact I have hardly mapped out my own part. Wither Ellis has sent a letter from Annapolis Md where he is now teaching in the Naval Academy. His line of thought was that they were ~~young~~ men who sacrificed and labored in those early times. Mrs Ruth McKee will I think quote rather copiously from her ~~own~~ Grand-mother's diary. Miss Helen Clarke who was a teacher among those Indians for several years in the latter days will speak of the fruits of the work among them, as she found them ten or fifteen years ago. I think your own choice will be

the best. Burtou is about 10 miles from Tacoma on the sea shore of Puget Sound Bay and it is intended to make it a kind of camp meeting affair.

Referring to your questions, Father did purchase the Whitman Mission Station of 640 acres for \$1000.- and in eleven or twelve years afterwards sold it for \$5000.- giving as I remember one half of what he received from it to help found Whitman Seminary now Whitman College. I was appointed U. S. Indian Agent in 1871 under Pres. U. S. Grant and served continuously through all administrations including Cleveland's first term until ~~18~~ 1895, lacking only two months of 24 years. Cleveland reappointed me during his first administration but under the pressure of his party, abolished the office during his second administration thus dropping me out.

So far as ^{to} the split in the church at Fort Larove in about 1857. I was too young to know or remember any thing of the causes or details. I know your father drove ^{to} & preached in the

Griffin School House for near a year but of the causes of the split I do not know anything at all.

I think that after we had served out our four years near Hillsborough, it was through the influence of Dr Marsh and your father that we moved back to the Grove. Mr Clarke had then died. Whether that had anything to do about it I do not know. There was some friction between my father and the Clarke family. As I remember when Father was teaching at Salem in the year of 1848-9 Mr Clarke offered him one half of his 640 acre claim to father if he would come there and make the school go. After he had taught a while, the trustees wanted it, and another arrangement was made by which father gave the trustees the half Mr Clarke had given him, and Mr Clarke divided again and the trustees had one half, my father one quarter and Mr Clarke one quarter, but Mrs Clarke refused to sign the deed to the quarter and it was divided.

and father at last got 50 acres. Whether this had anything to do with it, ^(the ground) or not I do not know.

My health has been slowly improving and I am much better than I was, but am not young again. I too am doing something about preparing one or two books to be printed. Eliza Warren too has written me that she in connection with a lady a writer is preparing a book for publication.

We have been having a series of meetings commemorative of its being the 40th anniversary of the organization of our church. One incident in connection occurred Sunday morning the 24th of May. Our only Grandson was then about 6 months old. They live in Seattle. They came up and had him baptized, and his name is brushing Ellis Coates, and at the same time the father Mr Coates joined the by letter from his home church. Hoping to hear from you in the near future,
I am
Yours sincerely
Edwin Ellis