

MSS 114
1/8

Palmer, Joel

1853 Diary for 1853. MS in possession of Shiela Morgan Henry (g.g. granddaughter of author), Dayton, Ore.

1 Sept.

This day we reached the Kenion where we overtook Lieut. Grover with the advance of Capt. Nesmith's command who were out forward with ammunition. Lodged at S. B. Briggs.

2 Sept.

This has been a rainy day found the Kenion and put up at Weylies 2½ miles from Kenion on Cow Creek. Here were several pack trains This seems to be general rendezvous for rowdies.

3 Sept.

✓ Today we traveled to Derbins on Rogue River 45 miles where we had alarming reports of plunder and murder by the Indians but believe at best one half is done by the whites.

4 Sept.

This day we arrived at Camp Alden near Table Rock. Gen. Lane had just had a talk with a portion of the R. R. Tribe and had agreed to meet them again on Thursday to make a treaty of peace. The chiefs were to collect their people.

5. Sept.

✓ This day was spent in ascertaining the condition and feeling of the condition and feeling of the Indians. There is great excitement among the troops & miners and much opposition to the proposed treaty of peace. There are more rowdies assembled here than I have ever saw at one place. |

6 Sept.

Today was mostly spent in examining the tract of country proposed to be set aside as a reserve for the Indians. We found two Indians with whom we had a talk.

7 Sept.

Today General Lane & myself & several others went out to visit the Indians but a few could be found. They appeared treachery on our part and are very shy. it is with the utmost difficulty that they can be approached a few whites are carrying them news & trying to break up the treaty agreement. |

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they can be approached a few whites are carrying them news &
trying to break up the treaty agreement.

8 Sept.

This day the Indians assembled near the place agreed upon but as the whites & Indians were alike fearful of treachery a proper persuasion was [?] on both sides. One however meet hind [?] on the slope of the hill back of Table Rock 6 miles from Camp Alden. C/a7pt Smiths company of Dragoons is here ¼ mile distant.

9 Sept.

This day we met the Indians again. Great alarm was manifested on account of some of their men having been taken prisoner C/a7pt Williams finally succeeded in having a talk and the Treaty of Peace agreed upon tenerally -- signed. I then made a proposition to purchase their lands.

10 Sept.

This day having been agreeded upon to meet in counsil for the purchase of Indian Country we assembled at a spring, on Table Rock and agreed upon the conditions of a Treaty of purchase and a relinquishment, which we are to draw up and sign tomorrow.

11 Sept.

Today we meet according to agreement when the treaty was explained and signed and all signed [?] with the agent but nerchiefs, candies, just this afternoon I went to Jacksonville to purchase goods as per agreement.

12 Sept.

This day was spent in making purchases of goods for Indians & late at night we arrived at camp with them having broken down the waggon so that we're compeled to send for pack animals

13 Sept.

This day the Indians came to camp & received the goods promised them 99 men & 23 women with several children were present they belong to Jo, Sam and Jim's bands -- 5 of Johns family were there.

14 Sept.

To day General Lane & myself went to Jacksonville to make agreement to see the Applegate bands of Indians & to purchase a few articles omitted on Monday here we heared of the fight between Lt. Williams and John's family.

15 Sept.

This day was spent in writing former agent Skinner and in making

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15 Sept.

This day was spent in writing former agent Skinner and in making

out synopsis of treaty with Indians for war commissioners and in gathering information relative to Tipsey's band of Indians.

16 Sept.

This day we returned to Camp Alden where an additional number of Indians were awaiting our arrival after talking with them we directed Wm. Culver to make them a few presents and as our mission has been accomplish[ed] we started to the Willamette and reached Derbins in the evening.

17 Sept.

This day we traveled to the south end of Kenion: & put up at Mr. [Hardy] Elleff--no Indians to be seen, the lodges that were here on our way out according to our instruction had gone to mouth of Cow Creek

18 Sept.

This day we we passed through the Kenion and went to Mr. Riddles where we expect to meet the Cow Creek Indians. Runners have been sent out to collect them to have a talk tomorrow morning

19 Sept.

Today the Indians assembled at an early hour where we explained to them the importance of preserving peace with the whites and our desire to treat them kindly and finally after learning their great desire to sell their country made them a proposition which after a consultation among themselves they agreed to and a treaty was drawn up and signed in the evening at an ofference of 2 bushels potatoes. An Indian complained that [?] company had taken gun. I gave him one.

20 Sept.

This day one of the Cow Creek chiefs who had been absent yesterday came in and after the treaty had been explained to him desired to sign it he accordingly done so. We then started on our way to the Willamette crossed at McHadley's at night put up at General Lane

21 Sept.

This day I appointed C[a]pt. Wm. Martin special agent for the Indian Tribes on the waters of Umpqua to Coose River and around Coose bay we nooned at Winston and put up for the night at Charles Appiegates. here we found the horse left by Jacobs which had given out on our way to Rogue River.

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22 Sept.

Today we started early over the Calapooia had some trouble in getting the broke down horse along as he was partially packed took dinner at Doct. A. N. Folie north of Calapooia reached Hethisllys where we put up for the night.

23 Sept.

This morning started at daylight traveled 13 miles for breakfast dined at Hintons reached Norrises where we put up for the night.

24 Sept.

This morning the mare which had been packed yesterday was driven up with a colt by her side and as it was too sorry too travel we traded her of [?] for a mule giving 40 dolers difference at night reached Hawkins 8 miles from Salem

25 Sept.

This day at dark we arrived at Dayton having been absent twenty-nine days from 28 August to 25 Sept. inclusive.

26 Sept.

This day I remain at home.

27 Sept.

Today I started to Meltnaukey

Note: Punctuation and spelling yet need to be checked against the original. A few words can not be read and have been indicated by [?] in the text.

Transcribed in July, 1981, by Shiela Henry. Read and transcribed again on October 11 by Shiela Henry and Stephen Dow Beckham.

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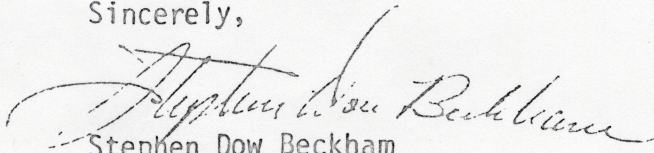
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Again, Shiela, we have at Lewis and Clark several hundred Palmer letters on microfilm from the archives collections in Washington, D. C. If at any time you would want to come to read those letters, I could arrange for you to do so and would be happy to help you locate them in the library.

Sincerely,

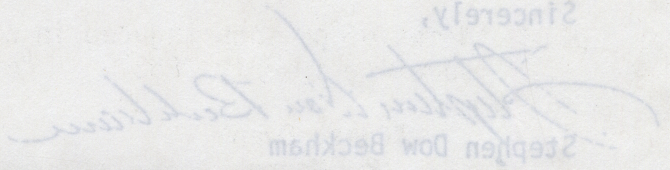

Stephen Dow Beckham

Enc.: 1853 diary transcript
1854 diary transcript
n.d. memo material [probably from 1853-56]

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