

Dear Callender

The Oregon Came in on the 3rd taking us by surprise. She leaves today & I suppose we will get our next mail by Northerner. No news of any importance from the Indian Country. Col. Wright has men _____ out about 15 days. We heard yesterday from Garnett's Command. He has had no fight: but Lieut. Crook had Captured 5 more (some _____) of the Indians guilty of attacking the miners. Garrett is going to Okinagan (*The Okanagan also known as the Okanagan Valley and sometimes as the Okanagan Country, is a region in the Canadian province of British Columbia.*). He is now at the Wenatshe. On his return he will cross the Columbia at Priest's Rapids & _____ in the Snake Country. Whither all the hostile Indians of the Yakima tribe Kamiakin (*Yakama Chief Kamiakin*) Schloum & others have gone. I suppose you have heard of the March of the 6th Infty to Benicia instead of Walla-Walla. I didn't know whether they will be winter there: but suppose they will be. My attention has been called to a letter & an editorial attack formed thereon in the S. Francisco Herald. It was the most inprtifrable(?) outrage I have ever heard of. So all agree who have said anything to me about it. The Editorial was copied into the Oregon Times. I was not disposed to enter into a newspaper controversy where the advantage was all on one side: but Eckerson has written an article which will be copied in the S. Francisco papers.

Gen'I Clarke says that he supposes there never was an army so well equipped: at least on this continent.

Mackall I suppose you have seen.

The renirt(?) have give some to the Sanrd(?): some upstream. The Dragons were _____ with the Carbines and besides 50 ____ in their boxes had a reserve of 100 per man.

Respect to Mr. McHollisk & lady: also to you_____.

Trul re

JW Sill

I send a list of Stores on hand.

372 Belt Pistols

423 Sharp's Carbines

102 Per. Rifles (.84)

68,500 Musket xball Cartridges

39,400 Musket ?ball Cartridges

46,000 Riflex Ball Cartridges

3,000 Rifle (____) ball Cartridges (.84)

40,000 Cartridges Rifle (.54____) for x balls

9,000 Musketoon Ball cartridges

30,000 W. Cavalry Pistol Cartridges

162,300 Sharp's Carbine Cartridges

20,000 Colts Army Dragon Pistol Cartridges

11,600 Colts Belt Pistol “

180 Musket blank cartridge

167,000 Sharp's primers

18,287 Per. (*percussion*) Caps

----- biography -----

Joshua Woodrow Sill (December 6, 1831 – December 31, 1862), was a career officer in the United States Army and brigadier general during the American Civil War. He was killed at the Battle of Stones River in Tennessee. Fort Sill, Oklahoma, was later named in his honor.

Sill was born in Chillicothe, Ohio. His early education was obtained largely from his father, who was a lawyer. Sill was appointed in 1849 to the United States Military Academy. During his four years at West Point he ranked among the best scholars and graduated third in his class of 52 cadets. Upon graduation he was commissioned a brevet second lieutenant in Ordnance and his first assignment was at the Watervliet Arsenal in Troy, New York. In 1855 he was assigned to West Point as an instructor. After two years there he was assigned to Pittsburgh Arsenal as an ordnance officer.

In May 1858, Sill was sent to Vancouver in Washington Territory to superintend the building of an arsenal. Difficulties with the British Government prevented the construction of this arsenal and he was reassigned to Watervliet Arsenal. A few months later he was ordered to Fort Leavenworth, but resigned his commission in January 1861. He then taught mathematics and civil engineering in the Brooklyn Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute.

Civil War

Following the bombardment of Fort Sumter, Sill resigned his teaching position and offered his services to the Governor of Ohio, who appointed him Assistant Adjutant General of the State in May 1861. Here he was occupied in the organization of the Ohio forces. In August 1861 he was commissioned colonel of the 33rd Ohio Infantry and accompanied Brig. Gen. William "Bull" Nelson in the Eastern Kentucky expedition.

He was then assigned as a brigade commander in Brig. Gen. Ormsby M. Mitchel's division of the Army of the Ohio. He was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on July 16, 1862. Shortly thereafter, Sill was elevated to command of a division, though was soon reassigned to command a brigade in Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan's division of the now-named Army of the Cumberland.

Sill took part in the bloodiest battle of the Civil War (in terms of percentage of casualties on both sides), the Battle of Stones River, just outside Murfreesboro, Tennessee. On the first day of battle, while leading his men forward, he was killed by rifle fire. On the eve of the battle, Sill had been in conference with his commander, General Sheridan. When the conference adjourned and the attendees began to disperse, Sill and Sheridan mistakenly put on each other's coats. Sill was thus wearing Sheridan's coat at the time he was killed.

Death

Sill's body was found by Confederate troops, who buried it in a battlefield cemetery near the scene of his death. Sill was later interred at Grandview Cemetery, Chillicothe, Ross County, Ohio.

An epitaph from one of Sill's officers stated that "No man in the entire army, I believe, was so much admired, respected, and beloved by inferiors as well as superiors in rank as was General Sill."

Fort Sill, Oklahoma

In 1869, Sill's West Point classmate and division commander, General Philip H. Sheridan, officially established a military post in the Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma. Sheridan named the military post in memory of Sill. Fort Sill is the largest field artillery complex in the world.

----- historic context -----

The Territory of Washington was organized from a portion of Oregon Territory on February 8, 1853. Less than a month later, Isaac Stevens, a military officer and firm supporter of Franklin Pierce's candidacy for President in 1852, was appointed as the new territory's first governor on March 2, 1853. Stevens assumed his duties, which also included acting as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, later that year in November.

By 1855, there was an insatiable demand for land and resources by new white settlers and Stevens began to heavily pressure the Yakama and other tribes to sign treaties. On June 9, 1855, the Yakama, Umatilla, Cayuse, and Walla Walla tribes signed the treaties, which ceded in excess of six million acres to the United States government, in exchange for \$200,000. Initially, Yakama Chief Kamiakin refused to sign the treaty, but, later did so under duress. However, the Yakama tribe, who ceded 10,828,800 acres to the U.S. government, reserved their right to fish, hunt and gather within the ceded area.

Walla Walla Chief Peopeomoxmox won a separate reservation for the Walla Walla, Cayuse, and Umatilla. Originally, the documents also ordered the Nez Perce to move to Oregon's Umatilla Reservation with the Walla Walla, Cayuse, and Umatilla tribes. However, all the tribes so opposed this plan that Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens granted the Nez Perce the right to remain in their own territory, on the condition that they relinquish nearly 13 million acres to the U.S. government.

The tribes and bands also agreed to move to the new reservations and receive federal benefits. However, at the time the treaty was signed, Governor Stevens assured the Indians that white miners and settlers would not be allowed to trespass on tribal lands during the time before the treaty could be ratified by the United States Senate and, the treaties stipulated the tribes and bands had two years to relocate to their new reservations.

However, like so many other treaties which were enacted in the American West, Governor Stevens didn't keep his word and threw open the Indian lands for white settlers less than two weeks after the treaty was signed. The Oregon Weekly Times, just 12 days after the Walla Walla treaties were signed, ran an inexcusable article that read, in part:

"By an express provision of the treaty, the country embraced in these cessions and not included in the reservation is open to settlement, excepting that the Indians are secured in the possession of their buildings and implements till removal to the reservation."

Yakama Chief Kamiakin then called upon the tribes to oppose the declaration. Some of the tribes joined forces under Kamiakin and other tribes rose up as well, resulting in the Yakima War

The three treaties signed by Washington tribes, resulting in the Yakama, Nez Perce, and Umatilla reservations, were not ratified by Congress until 1859.

Treaties between the United States and several Indian tribes in the Washington Territory resulted in reluctant tribal recognition of U.S. sovereignty over a vast amount of land in the Washington Territory. The tribes, in return for this recognition, were to receive half of the fish in the territory in perpetuity, awards of money and provisions, and reserved lands where white settlement would be prohibited.

While governor Isaac Stevens had guaranteed the inviolability of Native American territory following tribal accession to the treaties, he lacked the legal authority to enforce it pending ratification of the agreements by the United States Senate. Meanwhile, the widely publicized discovery of gold in Yakama territory prompted an influx of unruly prospectors who traveled, unchecked, across the newly defined tribal lands, to the growing consternation of Indian leaders. In 1855 two of these prospectors were killed by Qualchin, the nephew of Kamiakin, after it was discovered they'd raped a Yakama woman.[1]