

Salem O. S. Oct. 19th 1855.

Friend Webster

Your interesting favor of July 16th was rec^d. about 3 weeks ago, forwarded to me at Deer Creek. I should have answered it immediately, but deferred it in order to pick up a few items here at the office as I then expected to arrive here much sooner than I have. I expected to commence & tell you about Deputies clerks &c.; but that is altogether to tame to think about just now, for war! war! Indian war! is the cry on every side. About 10 days ago the news came in that several persons had been killed on the route from Olympia to the new mines near Sit Colville mostly in the Yakima country & that Mr Bolon Indian a great head gone out there & they had killed him. Maj' Haller started out immediately from the Dalles. The next news was, he was surrounded by a large band of indians (variously estimated from 5 to 1500.) & 48 hours without ammunition & provisions; & they calling for assistance. Last Sunday a messenger came in from Umpqua with the news that a large part of the inhabitants between Grave creek ^{& Regum River} had been massacred & an attack upon the settlements in Umpqua was feared.

150 of the settlers petitioned the Gov. to send them immediate assistance. Gov. Curry had already issued a proclamation calling for 8 companies to go North. On the receipt of this petition he issued another for 5 to go South.

I have heard that another call has been made for three more companies to go North. So for the last week it has been hurrah boys every body scouring up his gun & revolver nearly a thousand men are on their way to the Dalles, some of them probably there as they go up on the boats.

In the meantime we have got news that Maj' Haller has got back with the loss of 6 men killed & 10 or 15 wounded. He fought his way through them in a Canyon in the night. Charged on them with the bayonet. This was his only chance as he was out of ammunition & in the day time they would have killed every "Boston". Lieut Day ^{with forty men} met him about 25 miles from the Dalles & give the Indians a few rounds which gave them a check. The place where Haller was surrounded was in Sincere valley about 40 miles North of the Dalles.

In a few days there will be Oregon boys enough there to give them a better trial. We have now got news that over a hundred Indians have been killed in Rogue river valley & that there were not as many whites killed as at first reported. For the last 3 or 4 days the story has been current that there were about 300 Klamath warriors up the N. fork of Santiam. Day before yesterday a company was raised & went out there to see & fight them if necessary. But they could not find any Klamaths. There had been some there. Bilden was Sergeant in the company.

So you will see that take it all in all it has been exciting times for the last few days.

Dep. Armstrong is Capt. of a Co. & goes to the Dalles. Col. Ford's party made a narrow escape out on the Siskion. Dr. Henry is out the other side of the Canyon probably fighting

Gordon is married & living in town here at present.

as he happened there just as the war commenced. There seems to be a general combination of indians all over this & Washington territories. It will probably take considerable fighting out North as there are not many of them that are "Sollix"; but South I think they will soon kill them all off as the people out there were well armed & a great many of them aching for a chance to fight them.

Lake & Hyde have been in 5 or 6 weeks; think ^{they} didn't find as much good country in the Illinois valley as they anticipated. I believe they run the exterior lines of 16 tps. Taking in Cow Creek all. Flint has surveyed 4 tps in Wapqua.

Gordon & Gardner (Charley) surveyed a few tps taking in the Calappa mts Scottsburg &c. They reached Scottsburg by meandering down the river. Gordon extended the 5th Standard to the coast & was to run a meridian ~~trip~~ about to Port Orford. He run about 6 miles S. & his men deserted him. He has not done any thing more at it. It was roots!!

I surveyed 11 S 7 W., 26 & 27 S 7 W., 28 & 29 S. 8 W & 29 & 30 S. 9. W. found it a very rough country. Think however I have made something out of it. Will try & tell you more about it some other time. If there is any more good country W. of the Cascades I would like to see it.

Some of us are aching to go E. of the Mts, but Indian wars will veto that for awhile.

Wash. Ter. Deps. have "run fits" some of them had to give up their contracts; some of them wanted to. I recollect you told me somebody would "get stuck" on that meridian. I have been told it was even so. Please excuse this hasty sketch & let me hear from you at your very earliest convenience. at Corvallis Truly - J. Hathorn

It is not Brood's extensive mercantile operation that cause his negligence. I think he is out of that & out of a claim with a little wife that I think is

Time from being in a long time he has been entering of the mountains I have not seen or heard of him