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Letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting, in response to Senate resolution of January 29, 1889, report of Capt. W. E. Birkhimer.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING,

In response to Senate resolution of January 29, 1889, report of Capt. W. E. Birkhimer.

DECEMBER 9, 1889.—Referred to the Committee on Pensions, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, December 7, 1889.

SIR: In response to the resolution of the United States Senate, dated January 29, 1889, as follows—

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, directed to cause an investigation to be made into the organization and service of what has been commonly known in Oregon as "Capt. Lawrence Hall's company of Oregon Volunteers," which, it is alleged, was organized in the early part of the year 1848, for service, and which served in the Indian war in Oregon known as the "Cayuse war," and to report to the Senate, at his earliest convenience, all the facts relating to such alleged organization, whether of record or otherwise, together with the names of the officers and privates constituting such company—

I have the honor to report that Capt. William E. Birkhimer, U. S. Army, was designated in orders of March 15, 1889, to make the required investigation, and his report, dated November 7, 1889, and the accompanying papers, are herewith submitted.

Very respectfully,

REDFIELD PROCTOR,
Secretary of War.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
JUDGE-ADVOCATE'S OFFICE,
Vancouver Barracks, Wash., November 7, 1889.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, pursuant to indorsements by the War Department and from Headquarters Department of the Columbia, of date, respectively, February 18 and March 15, 1889, upon Senate resolution of January 29, 1889, and letters of the honorable Secretary of War and Senator J. H. Mitchell, of Oregon, relating thereto, I have investigated as fully as I have been able to do the subject-matter of that resolution.

The first step taken was to publish in the columns of the Oregonian a communication to the general public setting forth the resolution in question and soliciting authentic information from any one who could give it as to the organization, service, and personnel of Captain Hall's company. (Copy of communication to the Oregonian appended,

marked "A.") This appeared to be the best means of giving publicity to the resolution of the Senate and disseminating a knowledge of its scope and purpose.

I have received numerous communications relating to the subject under investigation from interested parties, which are appended, marked "B." The affidavits of several survivors have been collected and form Appendix "C." The affidavit of Colonel Cornelius is particularly valuable, as that gentleman is in the full possession of his faculties, and the tracing showing routes pursued by the troops on the map accompanying this report was made out by him.

The facts and attendant incidents of the service of these troops seem to be as follows: In very early days Dr. Whitman and his wife established a missionary station at Waiilatpu, in the valley of the Walla Walla River, between the present Walla Walla and Wallula. This was in the territory occupied by the Cayuse tribe of Indians. On the 29th day of November, 1847, the doctor and his wife, and numerous others assembled at the station were either killed or wounded, and carried off captive by these Indians, who razed the buildings to the ground, and tried by one blow to wipe the mission from the face of the earth.

The distance by trail from Waiilatpu to Oregon City, the Territorial capital (just above Portland), was about 275 miles, and news of this massacre reached the latter place on the 7th of December following. The legislature of the provisional government was in session. On the 8th Governor Abernethy communicated the fact to that body. On the 9th a bill was passed, and on the 10th signed by the governor, authorizing the raising a mounted regiment of volunteer riflemen five hundred strong, to serve ten months unless sooner discharged by proclamation of the governor, and which, while in service, should be subject to the rules and regulations of the United States Army.

One hundred of the five hundred troops authorized came out by proclamation of the 10th of December, but the rest were called out by another proclamation of the governor dated the 25th of December, 1847, and Capt. Lawrence Hall's company was among the latter. The regiment was commanded by Col. Cornelius Gillian (who was accidentally killed during the progress of the campaign), and Hall's was designated as the second company thereof. A roster of the company will be found hereto attached, marked "D."

The company left the vicinity of Portland about the first week of January, 1848, crossed the Columbia River to Vancouver, followed the trail on the north side of that river to a point above the Cascades, thence recrossing and proceeding on the south side to The Dalles.

The belief was then general that the Cayuse, Walla Wallas, Nez Percés, Yakimas, and others were joining forces against the whites. Accordingly the policy was adopted of fighting the Indians wherever found, which led to a scout up the Des Chutes River, where, on the 30th of January, Hall's company, with some others, first met the enemy. The Indians were driven off. The casualties on each side were few, the Indians having the advantage of fresh horses and judiciously keeping at a respectful distance from the riflemen. The moral effect of this attack was excellent, leaving the country comparatively secure from raids by these particular Indians, as the troops penetrated still further into the interior of the Indian country.

Returning to The Dalles, Captain Hall's company, leaving a few men behind as a guard and garrison at The Dalles, pressed out on the old emigrant road towards their first objective point, Waiilatpu, or Whitman's Station. When a few miles east of Old Wells, and, as the command approached the Umatilla River, it was attacked by the Indians, and the battle of Sand Hollows, or Dry Plains, was fought on the 24th and 25th of February. Here some of the riflemen were wounded, and several Indians, including the Cayuse chief, Great Eagle, were reported killed. The troops arrived at Waiilatpu about the 3d of March, 1848. The remains of those who had been massacred were decently interred, and a small stockade built.

Accompanying the soldiers was a party of citizens en route to Washington City, headed by Mr. J. L. Meek, who was the bearer of dispatches from Governor Abernethy to the President. Some of the troops, including Hall's company, escorted this daring and gallant party to the summit of the Blue Mountains, to start them well on their perilous journey, and place them beyond the sight and hearing of the hostile Indians. The object was accomplished, and Mr. Meek, after much suffering, duly presented his dispatches.

Returning to Waiilatpu, the best mounted and equipped of the riflemen, and Hall's company among them, were selected for an expedition against the Cayuse Indians, whose exact location was at this time unknown. The object was to bring the Indians to terms by some means, by fighting or otherwise, and recapture the stock stolen from the whites. The expedition started about the 10th of March, 1848, and after a search of ten days or so found the enemy encamped on Tucannon River, about 4 miles above its confluence with the Columbia. The enemy adopted the ruse of hoisting a white flag, asked for and had a talk with the troops, and pretended not to belong to the hostile

party; but, upon the whites taking charge of the stock of the murdered pioneers, which were feeding on the adjacent hills, the wily foe threw off the mask, and began an impetuous attack. The troops, greatly outnumbered, fought on the defensive, marching in retreat, formed in a hollow square, to resist the assaults made on all sides. The first night the captured stock was turned loose. The next morning the attack and retreat continued, and the Indians, as the Touchet River crossing was approached, took possession of it, attempting thereby to cut off the retreat of the troops effectually. Here nothing but the most determined charge and fighting drove off the Indians and enabled the whites to cross that river and thus escape threatened extermination.

But it was not the policy of the Indians to push matters to extremities. Realizing that they had raised up a force against themselves which, in the long run, they could not successfully cope with, and disappointed that the neighboring tribes did not openly join hands with them in hostilities, the Cayuse were now intent only upon escaping eastward with their plunder and stock, which they succeeded in doing.

About the middle of May another expedition, also including Hall's company, was fitted out to scour the Palouse and Spokane countries. After arrival in the Palouse country and finding no Cayuse, a detachment was sent off to Fort Colville for some missionaries and their families there stationed. The expedition, making a wide sweep, penetrating the country where Colfax and Lewiston now stand, and traversing the country which ten years later became the theater of Steptoe's disaster and Wright's chastisement of the Palouse, returning to Waiilatpu about June 4, having been gone about three weeks. The Cayuse, as a tribe, had left the country. A few days afterwards the Colville detachment returned, having successfully accomplished its purpose.

The troops were now started en route for their homes, arriving at Oregon City about June 20, 1848, where they were promptly mustered out of service, after about six months of active campaigning.

In the beginning, when raising volunteers was authorized, there were provided for and appointed by legislative sanction, a commissary-general and an adjutant-general. The former appears to have been entrusted with supervision of the business affairs of the troops, equipments, supplies, rations, etc., while the latter kept the records. An extract from a report of the adjutant-general to the commissary-general as to the amount due each enlisted man engaged against the Cayuse in this war, in so far as it affects Hall's company, is hereto appended, marked "E." It is supposed that these dues were settled at the time. Every non-commissioned officer and private who furnished his own horse was to receive \$1.50 per day; and it will be seen that, making this allowance, the sums reported as due in Appendix "E" covered about six months' service, with such variations as might be expected under the circumstances.

The Cayuse war was attended by many privations and much suffering on the part of the troops. These were to some extent the natural incidents of warfare, but aggravated by a defective commissariat. So soon as the 30th of January, on the Des Chutes, after the fight there, we find the troops killing horses for food. After they succeeded in recrossing the Touchet from their prolonged contest of two days and a night with the Indians camped at Tucannon they found and killed some Indian ponies and ate the meat with a relish, being the first opportunity they had had to eat since the fight began. The night after the battle at Sand Hollows or Old Wells, on 24th of February, the whites slept on the field, without wood, water, or food, awaiting the renewal of the attack the next morning.

The secretary of the Oregon Pioneer Society informs me that the papers of Captain Hall, referred to in the letter of Mrs. L. J. Bennett to Senator Mitchell, dated Rockford, Wash., March 10, 1889 (see Appendix "B"), are now among the papers of that society, at Salem, Oregon, but he can not give more definite information, for he says that if he were to go and search for them himself he would not know where to find them, the records of the society having been removed from the room in the State capitol where they were formerly deposited.

I have not succeeded as I desired in procuring certified copies of the proclamations of the governor calling out and disbanding these troops, nor a copy, duly authenticated, of their muster-rolls. The natural repository for these documents would be the archives of the State of Oregon. I have made an effort, through the proper authorities, to secure the documents, but thus far without success, although these authorities are doing all they can in the premises. As, however, it is uncertain what may be the result of the searches now being made for the desired papers, it was thought best not longer to delay on that account the preparation and submission of this report.

The survivors of this gallant band of volunteer riflemen are now few in number. Some have visited and others have written to me. Age has impaired the vigor of their powers, but their patriotism has not diminished. There can be no doubt but that by the bold, determined, and aggressive course they took, this section was spared a ruthless and protracted Indian war. They look forth, with vision dimmed by years, it is true,

upon the fair land which their prowess helped save to the Union, now grown into a mighty empire. They served their country well, and they deserve well of their country.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. E. BIRKHIMER,
Captain, Acting Judge Advocate.

To the ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Vancouver Barracks, Wash.

A.

[Oregonian, March 22, 1889.]

Authentic information desired in regard to the organization and services of "Captain Lawrence Hall's company of Oregon volunteers."

Under recent date Capt. William E. Birkhimer writes the following note, which is self-explanatory:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Vancouver Barracks, Wash., March 16, 1889.

Having been designated to investigate the matter of the service of certain volunteers, pursuant to the following resolution:

"IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
January 29, 1889.

"Resolved, That the Secretary of War be, and is hereby, directed to cause an investigation to be made into the organization and service of what has been commonly known in Oregon as 'Capt. Lawrence Hall's company of Oregon volunteers,' which, it is alleged, was organized in the early part of the year 1848 for service and which served in the Indian war in Oregon, known as the 'Cayuse war,' and to report to the Senate, at his earliest convenience, all the facts relating to such alleged organization, whether of record or otherwise, together with the names of the officers and privates constituting such company.

"Attest:

"ANSON G. MCCOOK, Secretary."

I will thank any one having knowledge of the organization and services of the company mentioned to communicate it. The information which it is conceived will meet the purposes of the Senate resolution and best serve those interested should cover these points, viz :

First. Anything authentic regarding the organization of the company.

Second. The character of the services—where and when—that it rendered. This should likewise be confined to facts, as nothing else will serve any useful purpose.

Third. The names and residences of the members of the company, with the rank of each, and the names and post-office addresses of surviving members.

It is suggested to those who may be interested in this matter that they can perhaps best serve themselves as well as more satisfactorily develop the facts by calling upon me and making the statement in person.

WM. E. BIRKHIMER,
Captain and Acting Judge-Advocate, U. S. Army.

[Oregon and Washington Territory papers please copy.]

A true copy.

WM. E. BIRKHIMER,
Captain, Acting Judge-Advocate.

B.

DALLES, February 15, 1848.

DEAR SIR: This is perhaps the last time I shall be able to write during the campaign, for this is the last sheet of paper that I am owner of, and it is impossible to get any more in the army. I have the pleasure to inform you that Perin [meaning P. G. Northrup.—EDS.] and myself are well, and have enjoyed good health, with a little exception, since we started. We have had one brush with the De Chute Indians. You will probably

have heard all about it before this letter shall come to hand. It took place on the 30th of January last and continued for nearly two hours, and resulted in the total defeat and rout of the Indians. The number of killed and wounded could not be known, but has been variously estimated at twenty. We do not have to lament the loss of any; one man only wounded, and he is fast recovering. The battle took place on the east side of the De Chute River, near 35 miles from this place, near their village, in a large canyon. Their town was burnt, and, together with it, a great deal of property, amounting to \$3,000 in value. Two men of our party were killed about the same time, within 3 miles of this place, and also one shot by accident by a sentinel. Perin says he shot two Indians during the fight, one of which was a chief. Those who saw him speak in the highest terms of his bravery and coolness. When the charge was ordered he rushed ahead with some two or three others [John Engart, S. Y. Cook,—Eds.], near 200 yards in advance of the company, and took a position behind a knoll, from which place he had several good shots at the Indians not more than 60 yards off. He says while he was there the balls whistled about some of them, cutting the grass just above his head. The Indians at last, being severely galled by the firing from that place, took advantage of the little party when their guns were all empty and made a charge and run them from their favorite place. In their retreat Perin came very near being cut off. One Indian, mounted on a swift horse, with spear in hand, rushed within 20 feet of him. He was, however, fired on by Capt. Lawrence Hall, and was glad to wheel and make his escape. I have given up the charge of the boats, and Colonel Gilliam has given me the appointment of wagon-master. This leaves me free to act as I please, and releases me from guard duty. The army is just on the eve of marching for the Blue Mountains, and everything is noise and bustle. Perin has requested me when I wrote to you to write also for him. I do not know what to say for him, unless it is to give you his best respects and say that he is well.

Please to accept of my kind wishes for yourself and Mrs. Northrup, and give my love to Mary.

I must conclude by subscribing myself, your most obedient,

I. W. SMITH.

Mr. J. L. NORTHRUP.

UNITED STATES SENATE.
Washington, D. C., March 2, 1889.

SIR: Referring to the investigation recently ordered by resolution of the Senate into the organization and service of the company known as "Captain Hall's company" in the Cayusa war, in Oregon, I beg to hand you the inclosed communication from S. A. Halcomb, esq., a member of said company. His communication gives the names and addresses of numerous others, which I beg may be transmitted to the officer making the investigation at Vancouver. I beg to have an acknowledgment of receipt of this.

I am, very respectfully,

JOHN H. MITCHELL.

Hon. W. C. ENDICOTT,
Secretary of War.

WEST UNION, OREGON, February 20, 1889.

SIR: Yours of the 11th ultimo is at hand, inclosing bill 3934. That is business; the very thing that we like, and the resolution to investigate also is right. I hope you will not allow it to go to sleep for two years to come, nor one year, if it is possible to secure our rights. It can be done this year as well as next. I have always said that you could do, or cause to be done, all that we asked. I am very thankful for what you have done, and if it is completed you will see several articles in newspapers to the effect that every Senator and Congressman that we have had for thirty years had been asked to do something for us, but failed to try. We old lads are not numerous now, but our boys are numerous. They are thousands—mostly chips of the old blocks. I will give you names of survivors of Captain Hall's company:

Sergt. Peter Enyart, Fossil, Gilliam County, Oregon; Sergt. T. H. Ramsay, St. John's, Multnomah County, Oregon; Sergt. T. R. Cornelius, Cornelius, Washington County, Oregon. Privates: Isaac Butler, Hillsborough, Washington County; Noah Job, Hillsborough, Washington County; J. C. Brown, Forest Grove, Washington County; I. I. Garish, Gaston, Washington County; David Harper, Gail's Creek, Washington County; Albert Stewart, Forest Grove, Washington County; Asa Williams, Greenville, Washington County; Robert Walker, Greenville, Washington County; P. G. Northrup, Mountaine, Washington County; S. A. Holcomb, West Union, Washington County, Oregon; Isaac N. Smith, Tillamook, Tillamook County, Oregon. All of our officers are dead except the threesergeants that I have mentioned. This is all of the company that I know

to be alive at this time. There may be a few others that are still living, but I do not know where they are. Again I thank you for your noble effort in this long-neglected thing. I bid you God speed.

Truly yours,

S. A. HOLCOMB.

Hon. JOHN H. MITCHELL.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, D. C., March 15, 1889.

SIR: Referring to the resolution recently passed in the Senate directing the Secretary of War to make an investigation as to the organization and service of Captain Hall's company in the Cayuse war, I beg to hand you the inclosed communication from Hon. R. A. Irvine, with the request that it may be forwarded to the officer at Vancouver, making the investigation, for his information. I will also be glad to be advised what officer at Vancouver is intrusted with this investigation.

I am, very respectfully,

JOHN H. MITCHELL.

Hon. REDFIELD PROCTOR,
Secretary of War.

SENATE CHAMBER,
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OREGON LEGISLATURE,
Albany, Oregon, March 5, 1889.

DEAR SIR: I understand there is no record of the Cayuse war at Washington City of 1848. I understand there is a statute at Salem of 1848 that has a record of the war. General Gillan had charge of the volunteers. They was mustered into service at Portland on the 9th day of January, 1848. I know of about twenty men that was in the war, and if you need any information let me know. Captain Hall was in the same regiment. Mr. Jason Wheeler was in the war and is furnishing me this information, and he says there was a man by the name of Captain Maxwell, also Captain English, also Capt. John Ross, Captain McKoy.

R. A. IRVINE.

Hon. J. H. MICHEAL.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, D. C., March 19, 1889.

SIR: I beg to hand you the inclosed communication from Mrs. L. J. Bennett, Rockford, Wash., who is the daughter of the late Capt. Lawrence Hall.

By a recent resolution of the Senate the Secretary of War was directed to make an investigation in reference to the organization and service of Captain Hall's company in the Cayuse war. I respectfully ask that the inclosed communication may be forwarded to the army officer at Vancouver, Wash., who has been directed to make the investigation.

I would also be glad to be advised as to the name and title of the officer who has been intrusted with this duty.

Very respectfully,

JOHN H. MITCHELL.

Hon. REDFIELD PROCTOR,
Secretary of War.

ROCKFORD, WASH., March 10, 1889.

DEAR FRIEND: I see by the Senate proceedings of January 29th, you presented a resolution directing Secretary of War to cause investigation to be made into the organization and service in the Cayuse war of a company known as Capt. Lawrence Hall's company, Oregon Volunteers. That is, or was, my father's company. Before his death he gave me all his papers, including journal and muster-roll. Before I moved from Portland, Oregon, the Oregon Pioneer Society wanted his papers. I donated them with the understanding that at any time I wanted them I could have them, or a copy. If you will write to the secretary of that society they may be of use to the Government, especially the muster-roll. James A. Flippin and Isaac Butler, both of Hillsborough, Washington County, Oregon, were in his company. I thought this little information might be of service to you. Do you not think it possible that something by the way of collecting that old United States marshal's claim of my late husband, W. H. Bennett, which come under the head of suspended claims; it is money that was due him in part

for service and part for money advanced out of his own pocket to pay expenses of jurors and witnesses' fees, he taking the Government for it, which he never got. The sum that Jacob Stitzel obtained was fraudulently got. I am left a lone widow and much in need of help. I am willing to allow a good fee if you can get something for me.

Write me what can be done, and oblige,

MRS. L. J. BENNETT.

The HON. J. H. MITCHELL.

[Indorsement.]

Official copies respectfully referred to the commanding general Department of the Columbia, through headquarters Division of the Pacific, in connection with previous papers on the same subject, referred to him on the 29th of February and 6th of March, 1889.

By order of the Secretary of War.

J. C. KELTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, *March 25, 1889.*

DEAR SIR: My attention has just been called to your communication of the 16th instant, asking for information concerning the organization and service of what has been known as Capt. L. Hall's company of Oregon Mounted Volunteers, etc.

I would say that upon the receipt of the news of the massacre of Dr. Marcus Whitman and others, at Wilatkee, in the Walla Walla valley, in December, 1847, George Abernathy, then provisional governor of Oregon, called for volunteers to muster into the service of the Territory and proceed to the Walla Walla country to assist what missionaries and emigrants there were remaining in that country to the Willamette Valley, and to force the Cayuse Indians to surrender up the murderers.

In obedience to said call there were six companies mustered into service, which was called the First Regiment Oregon Mounted Volunteers, commanded by Col. Cornelius Gillem, each company consisting of about sixty officers and men. I was a member of Capt. L. Hall's company. Said company was mustered into service on or about the 9th day of January, 1848, with Lawrence Hall, captain; H. D. O'Brien, first lieutenant; John Enyart, second lieutenant; William Sheldon, first sergeant; P. S. Enyart, second sergeant; T. R. Cornelius, fourth sergeant. The other non-commissioned officers I have forgotten. I can only give a partial list of the names of the men, as I write from memory. They are as follows: John B. Hall, A. C. Hall, Isaac Rutter, S. A. Kalteruh, D. Shoomak, A. Williams, A. Stewart, A. C. Brown, Isaac W. Smith, R. Noland, N. Jobe, J. W. Linginfelter, A. Enyart, T. Flemming, R. Walker, A. J. Lineberger, John Lineberger, A. Kimzy, T. Kimzy, S. Ross, G. Mundin, W. Watters, Charles Smith, S. Y. Cook, P. G. Northrup, John Elliot, John Lousignaught, S. Furgusson, David Harper, Joseph Scott, William Stokes.

This company, with the others of the regiment, left Portland about the 10th of January, 1848, and proceeded to the Walla Walla country, served about six months in the Cayuse war, and was mustered out at Oregon City about the 1st of July, 1848, having done good service in said Cayuse war, but probably nothing more than other companies in the old regiment.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

T. R. CORNELIUS.

WILLIAM E. BIRKHIMER,

Captain, Acting Judge-Advocate, U. S. A., Vancouver, Wash.

PRESCOTT, WASH., *March 26, 1889.*

DEAR SIR: Having seen an article in the Oregonian, asking for information regarding Capt. Lawrence Hall's company of Oregon volunteers, and being a member of that company I will write you what I know of that company. In December, 1847, there was a call for volunteers, when the company rendezvoused at Portland, where they organized, with Lawrence Hall as captain, H. D. O'Bryant as first lieutenant, John Enyart, second lieutenant, William Sheldon, orderly sergeant; the object being to chastise the Cayuse Indians for the massacre of Dr. Whitman and others. Each man furnished his own horse and outfit, and each mess of six furnished a pack-horse to carry their provisions, etc. Thus we set out on the line of march about January 1, 1848, for

the Cayuse country. Hall's company took part in all general engagements with the Indians, the first battle being fought on the Des Chutes River, 20 miles above its mouth, the second at Well's Springs, on the old emigrant road, and the third on the Tucannon and between Tucannon and Touchet Creeks, the latter lasting two days and nights; the marches and battle lasting three days and nights, during which time the volunteers were without food.

The men lived on just what the Indian country afforded, while here—that consisting mainly of beef and Cayuse-horse-meat, and no bread. We were discharged at Oregon City by Governor Abernethy about the last of June (1848) having served about six months, which were six months of hardships, toil, and peril, without hope of remuneration. Hall's company of men were all residents of what is now Washington County, Oregon. Several of them still live there. The officers of that company are all dead. I will now name all those I remember of Hall's company:

Thomas Kimzie, Thomas Cornelius, Joe Scott, Robert Walker, Randall Yarbour, Asa Williams, Peter Enyard, Charlie Smith, Abe Enyard, John Lousinall, Sherry Ross, John Lienberger, Lafayette Scroggins, Andrew Lienberger, Perry Northrup, John Zachary, John Garrish, _____ Mundon, Alvin Kimzie, _____ Harper, _____ Tupper, _____ Tupper.

If necessary, or you wish it, I will make affidavit to the above statements.

Very respectfully,

WM. W. WALTER.

Address: Prescott, Walla Walla County, Wash.
Capt. WM. E. BIRKHIMER.

TILLAMOOK, TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON, *April 1, 1889.*

MY DEAR SIR: I am just in receipt of your communication of March 16, and hasten to answer. In December, 1847, Governor Abernathy, of Oregon, receiving intelligence that the Indian tribes in the Walla Walla country were about to unite and wage a war against the whites, deemed it his duty to order out by proclamation a regiment of five hundred men to check them. I was appointed by him brevet captain, to enroll the Tualatin country company. I immediately repaired to Portland, Oregon, and commenced the duty of organizing the company. I do not now remember the number of men enrolled. The company elected their own officers. Lawrence Hall was elected captain, now deceased; Hugh O'Brien, first lieutenant, removed to California some years since; John Inyard, second lieutenant, now deceased. After the organization was completed, the company was placed under the command of Col. Cornelius Gilliam, commander of the regiment. I afterwards went with the company to The Dalles, and was with the company at the battle of the Des Chutes. For a description of that engagement I refer you to the accompanying letter, written by me from The Dalles soon after the battle. If you think this letter of no service in the matter please return it to me, but if it is needed keep it as long as you think proper. I am quite aged, and would like the letter to descend to my children as a reminiscence of early times in Oregon.

MEMBERS.

Col. Tom Cornelius, of Washington County, Oregon.

Isaac Butler, Stephen Holcomb, and Albert Stewart, of Hillsborough, Washington County, Oregon.

John Zachary, of Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon.

Robert Walker, of Springville, Washington County, Oregon.

P. G. Northrup, of Mountain Dale, Washington County, Oregon.

Some three years since we Indian war veterans held a meeting at Hillsborough, Washington County, Oregon, and elected Col. Tom Cornelius captain, and Hon. W. D. Hare, of Hillsborough, orderly sergeant. I specially refer you to those gentlemen for further information. I can not recall any more names. Just at this moment I remember John Loosenall, deceased. Colonel Cornelius is vigorous, and will give you more information probably than any other man. I omitted to state that I witnessed two other battles in which this company was engaged. One we called the battle of Dry Plain. In this engagement five or six Indians were killed and a number of whites wounded. I participated in this battle and was knocked still by a ball; the wound was slight, but the shock knocked me down. The other battle was called Of Touché. In this engagement eleven whites were wounded and thirty-four Indians were killed. The fight lasted three days and nights. We took a number of horses and 500 cattle from the Indians in this

engagement. My sight is so much impaired that I can not see to write, and have to have a friend do so for me. If you deem it necessary I will state what I know in the form of an affidavit.

ISAAC W. SMITH,
By I. T. MAULSBY.

Capt. WILLIAM E. BIRKHIMER.

STATE OF OREGON, WASHINGTON COUNTY, *April 1, 1889.*

DEAR SIR: In answer to your request, I will give the facts to the best of my recollection. On January 8, 1848, I enlisted in Capt. Lawrence Hall's company; then started for the Whitman's Mission, who had been murdered, him and his wife and several others, by the Indians, and two girls taken prisoners. This is what this company was called out for. We got the girls, and we got some of the leading ones that were in the massacre. As it has been so long ago I have forgotten a great many things. I will give the names of the officers: Lawrence Hall; first lieutenant, Hugh O'Brien; second lieutenant, John Iniard. As to the names, I presume you have them, so I hope you will excuse my blunders.

NOAH JOBE.

WM. E. BIRKHIMER.

MOUNTAIN DALE, WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON,
April 5, 1889.

DEAR SIR: Your favor of March 16 at hand, and contents duly noted, and I will do the best I can to answer your questions in regard to Colonel Hall's company of Oregon volunteers.

The company was organized about the 20th of December, 1847, at Portland, Oregon, with officers as follows:

Hugh O'Brien, as first lieutenant; whereabouts unknown.

John Iniard, as second lieutenant; dead.

Dr. Carpenter, physician and surgeon, Salem, Oregon.

General Gillam, as colonel; accidentally killed while in service, and succeeded by Colonel Waters.

T. R. Cornelius, first sergeant of guard, Cornelius, Oregon.

Stokes, second sergeant of guard; dead.

In regard to services rendered, each of us furnished our outfit and left Portland about January 1, 1848; thence via Vancouver and old Hudson Bay trail to Hood River; thence crossed river, and thence via Dalles to the Des Chutes; thence crossed and fought our first battle, called the battle of the Des Chutes; thence returned to The Dalles; thence went to Willow Creek, where we fought the battle of the Dry Plains; from thence to Whitman Station; from there we pursued the hostile Indians to Snake River, where we overtook them and commenced battle, but they were so strong we had to retreat back to the crossing of the Touchet, where we turned on them and gave them a thrashing, from whence they fled to the buffalo country, the last battle lasting two days and one night; thence most of the company was ordered to Spaulding's Mission, where they remained about one month, after which we all returned to Oregon City, where we were discharged about June 15, 1848, being nearly six months in the service.

I think I will call on you soon and can give you a more definite description of the battles, etc. If necessary, please let me know.

LIST OF PRIVATES.

Steve A. Holcomb, West Union, Washington County, Oregon.

Isaac Smith, Tillamook, Tillamook County, Oregon.

David Harper, Alvin Brown, Gilbert Mundon, Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon.

Noah Jobe, Cornelius, Washington County, Oregon.

Brazil Grounds, Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon.

Abner Vaughn, Ace Williams, Greenville, Washington County, Oregon.

Henry Langworthy, Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon.

Jacob Rhineerson, Rainier, Columbia County, Oregon.

Magoon, John Day's country, Oregon.

Peter Iniard, Jack Baley, out in John Day's country.

John Lionbarger, last heard of in California.

Thomas Kimsey, Alvin Kimsey, William Walters, ——— Walters, out on the Touchet,

10 CAPTAIN HALL'S COMPANY OF OREGON VOLUNTEERS.

Henry Stevens, Thomas Purvins, Josiah Lincoln Phelter, ——— Lawnsdale, Henry Levala, Isaac N. Green, ——— Ghumaker, ——— Evans, S. Y. Cook, Prospect Robinson, John Zachra, John Roland, William Smith, H. Canada, Lynn Abell, ——— Crawford, ——— Scott, Nathan Alney, whereabouts unknown.

Abe Iniard, Rhodes Noland, John Lousignot, Andrew Lionbarger, Mountain Robinson, Sherry Ross, John Cospenhober, Ben Allen, are dead.

Following nick-names, whereabouts and correct names, not known: Buckskin, Grizly Bear, and Rail.

Having no list of the names, I can think of no more at present. I think there were about 75 in company.

Very respectfully,

PERIN G. NORTHRUP,

Mountain Dale, Washington County, Oregon.

Captain BIRKHEIMER.

TILLAMOOK, OREGON, *April 22, 1889.*

DEAR SIR: In answer to your questions: I was in the war of 1847-'48. The company was called out by an act of the Oregon legislature—Governor Abernethy. T. W. Smith was designated by the governor to organize a company in Washington County some time about the middle of December, 1847. I belonged to Capt. Thompson, of Yamhill County, and was the first to arrive at the rendezvous on the bank of the Willamette, near Portland, and owing to the absence of our captain we became fourth, or Company D: first company, Mackwell's, of Marion; second, Owens's of Polk; third, Lawrence Hall's, of Washington; fourth, Thompson's, of Yam Hill, to which I belonged. The companies were not lettered but numbered, as I understood it, and were generally by their captains.

Capt. L. Hall was mustered in on the 9th of January, 1848; in a few days the whole regiment started for The Dalles. The two companies, that is Hall's and Thompson's, were together until we were discharged. We were together at the battle of the Des Chutes; I can not recollect the date of this or another battle. At the battle of Well Springs or Sandy Hollows we formed on the right of Hall's company. At the battle of Tucannon and Touchet we were together for two days and nights. On the retreat from Tucannon to the Touchet Hall's company was rear on the right, Thompson's on the left. The two companies came home together, arriving in Oregon City June 20, 1848. Were mustered out by proclamation of the governor. Green Rowland, of North Yam Hill, Oregon, has the names of all the volunteers of 1847 and 1848. Whether he can separate into companies or not I do not know.

I have the rheumatism so it is hard for me to write. If this is not sufficiently plain let me know wherein; I will try to explain.

Very respectfully, yours,

WM. D. STILLWELL.

Capt. WM. E. BIRKHEIMER,
Vancouver Barracks, Washington Territory.

SCIO, OREGON, *April 22, 1889.*

DEAR SIR: I see by a letter of United States Senator J. H. Mitchell, of Oregon, that you are the person to investigate the organization of a company of volunteers to fight the Cayuse and other Indians in 1847 and 1848 after the murder of Doctor Whitman and settlers, who are now asking for pensions for their services and losses by a memorial of the Oregon Legislature.

I was one of the persons who volunteered their services at that time; was living at Butte Creek, Clackamas County, Oregon.

Governor Abernethy called the companies; General Neal Gillam was in command. There was six companies, three on the east side of Willamette River and three on west. The six companies was composed of 280 men, with the following captains: Captains Mechy, Maxon, English, Hall, Owens, and Thompson. I was under Captain Maxon's command. We had the first fight at The Dalles, which did not amount to much. Had skirmishing along from this up to the Wells Springs, and at the Wells Springs we had a general fight with the Cayuse Indians, at which place 60 men were shot, but no one killed. I was the only man which was entirely shot through at this place. I was shot through the right lung with an ounce ball, which passed entirely through me, which has disabled me most of my life. I was taken from this place to Dr. Whitman's mission

building on a litter 100 miles, at which place three men were detailed to go to Washington City, D. C., for help. Their names are as follows: Joe Meek, Mountain Robison, and Mat. Bowman.

After their visit to Washington, D. C., General Joe Lane was sent out and took charge of the Territory of Oregon. The company soon after this was out of ammunition, and was obliged to return to the valley to get ammunition from the emigrants; at which time I was brought back. General Gilliam was in charge of the party, but near the John Day, by an accident of a gun, he was killed, and the party came on with Captain Maxon to The Dalles. For any further particulars I refer you to the following persons, who were with me at the time I was shot: Ashby Pearse, Jason Wheeler, Albany, Oregon; Jack Batty, James Officers, Molally, Clackamas County, Oregon; Richard Pollard, Prineville, Oregon; Col. Lawrence Hall, if living. If I can give you any more information which will be of use, will be glad to do so.

I hope you may do something for the few of us yet alive, as I believe if any men are entitled to a pension we should be, under the many hardships we had to overcome.

Trusting I may hear from you, ever respectfully yours,

N. G. McDONALD,
Per M.

Capt. WM. E. BIRKHMIR,
Vancouver, Wash.

DEAR SIR: Capt. Lawrence Hall's Company of Oregon Volunteers was organized in Portland during December, 1847, and immediately proceeded to The Dalles, and in January, 1848, the company participated in the fight at Buck Hollow on the Des Chutes River, then returned to The Dalles; then proceeded to Whitman Station on Walla Walla River, where we arrived in February. We participated in a fight at Sand Hollow and drove the Indians back on the road up in what is now Morrow County, Oregon.

The first work we did there was to build a wall for self-defense and a corral for the stock.

On March 12, 1848, there was a general forward movement of the four companies at the station, but on the morning of the 13th of March, 1848, the main portion of the command returned to Fort Waters.

A detachment of Capt. Lawrence Hall's company, with detachments of the other companies, 92 men in all, moved forward under Colonel Gilliam, traveled till 2 o'clock and camped, and moved again at sundown, traveling during the night till two hours before day, and camped till daylight on the morning of March 14, 1848! About sunrise we started down the valley of Tucannon, and had gone but a short distance till a war party of Indians appeared in front of us. They fell back and we pressed forward, gathering their cattle and horses till about 10 o'clock, when we had about 750 head of cattle and horses, as near as I can remember, at which time the Indians attacked us, about 450 or 500 strong, and the fight lasted till daylight next morning, when we started for Fort Waters (the Indians having recovered their stock during the night). We continued our march till about 2 o'clock p. m., when the Indians headed us off and renewed the fight on the Touchet.

The Indians fought desperately for about three hours, when we succeeded in driving them back, and proceeded on our way to Fort Waters. On our side one man was killed and a number wounded. I was wounded myself; a bullet passed through my leg, about six inches below the knee, taking a small splinter off the bone, which wound has bothered me about walking ever since.

At Tucannon and on the Touchet the following of our company participated in the fighting:

Lieut. John Enyart, Sergeants Thomas Cornelius and Peter S. Enyart; and Privates F. H. Ramsay, S. A. Holcomb, William Walters, Joseph Scott, John Lou Signou, Gilbert Mouden, Parren Northup, R. W. Smith. The above are all I remember at present.

Thomas Cornelius, Corneliusville, Washington County.

William Walters, near Dayton, Wash.

S. A. Holcomb, Hillsborough, Washington County.

F. H. Ramsay, ———, Multnomah County.

Robert Walker, Greenville, Washington County.

Noah Job, Hillsborough, Washington County.

A. C. Brown, Forest Grove, Washington County.

David Harper, Gales Creek, Washington County.

Albert Stewart, Asa Williams, Greenville, Washington County.

All alive that I remember at present.

The following deceased: Abram Enyart, Lieut. John Enyart (brothers of mine), Gilbert Munden.

That is about all I can give at present without study.

I remain, yours, truly,

PETER S. ENYART.

CAPTAIN AND ACTING JUDGE-ADVOCATE, U. S. A.

C.

Early in December, 1847, word came here that Dr. Whitman and a number of other citizens had been murdered, and a lot of prisoners taken at Waiilatpu, the mission in the Walla Walla Valley. The next thing Governor Abernethy got Peter Ogden, principal factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, to go up there with goods and try to buy back the prisoners. I offered to go with Ogden, but he had his full complement of men.

Capt. Lawrence Hall's company was one of Colonel Gilliam's regiment, Oregon Volunteers. First lieutenant, Hugh D. O'Bryant; second lieutenant, John Enyart, orderly sergeant, William Sheldon; first sergeant, William Stokes; second sergeant, Frederick H. Ramsay; third sergeant, Thomas R. Cornelius; fourth sergeant, Peter Enyart. The privates, partially, were Abraham Enyart, Samuel Ferguson, Samuel Gothard, John Luibarger, Andrew Laubarger, Gilbert Munden (color bearer), William Walters, Henry M. Stephens, Samuel Y. Cook, John L. Scoggin, Josiah W. Lingenfelter (since changed by law to Luin), John Q. Zackeria, Thomas Kinzie, A. Kinzie, Stephen Cummings, Allen Canada, Randall Yarber, Anderson Smith, Sherry Ross, Isaac Butler, Noah Job, A. C. Brown, J. J. Garish, P. G. Northrop, Marshall Martin, Thomas Flemming, David Harper, Asa Williams, Albert Stewart, Robert Walker, S. A. Holcomb, John Lousignout.

The company first went to The Dalles in boats, a few at a time. We got there about February 7, 1848. We were all mounted, some of the horses being taken up in the boats, and we drilled a few days at The Dalles. Then we started on the march to the Whitman Mission. We forded Des Chutes River, some 15 miles beyond The Dalles, without anything happening to us. Two or three days from there, marching on towards the Umatilla, we met the Indians. This was 10 miles or thereabouts before we reached the Umatilla River, as we marched on the old emigrant road.

We met the Indians then, the Cayuses, Walla Wallas, and perhaps some others. We fought that afternoon, and drove them from the field. We had some men wounded, but none in Captain Hall's company that I remember. I remember that a man by the name of McDonald, and Lieutenant Colonel Waters, and another man by name of Clark Rodgers were wounded. We camped on the field that night, and next day went on to the Umatilla River and camped there. We buried one Indian there, and left the chief who was killed on the field. We went to Fort Walla Walla, now called Wallula; then we went up the Walla Walla River to this Whitman Mission station, Waiilatpu; we covered up the graves of the killed better. Then we built a fort of rails gathered from the farms, set on end and surrounded by trenches. Then we escorted Joseph L. Meek, afterwards Colonel Meek, to the top of the Blue Mountains, as he went to Washington, sent, I think, by Governor Abernethy, to state how things were. Then we scoured the country round looking for property of the mission, and stock taken from it, and the hiding places of the Indians. We found out where the Indians were, and went after them. It was a forced march one day and night, and the next morning we found them. About 9 o'clock a. m. the battle began; fought all day and night and the next day until about 4 o'clock p. m., with nothing to eat in the mean time either. This fight began at Tukannon; we fell back fighting to the Touche River. We drove them at last and killed several of them; we fell back during this time, except at night; but at last turned at the Touche and drove back the Indians. The command lost several men wounded; two of them, Sergt. Peter Enyart and Private John Lousegiout, belonged to Captain Hall's company; one young man of the command, named Taylor, was mortally wounded.

After the fight was over, we went two or three miles; we were both tired and hungry, and killed a horse and tried to eat it. That night the snow fell about two inches deep on us. We had no tents. We got back to the fort we had built, which we called Fort Waters, and rested awhile. Then we started after the Indians again. We went back along the same line we fell back on before the Indians. We crossed Snake River at the mouth of the Palouse. A detachment was sent up to Spokane for Rev. Walker and Rev. Eels, in charge of the mission there. Returning, we scattered the Indians at a place on Snake River a little below Red Wolf village; killed one, and burned their camp property. Then we came back to the fort again. After scouting around over the country again in different directions, we started for Oregon City, as we supposed, to be discharged. At Des Chutes River, returning, we lost one man, drowned, named Jehu Davis. We stopped near The Dalles a day or two to rest. After that the company did

not keep together parts going in different ways. At Oregon City we were told to go, as they did not know whether we would be needed or not. On July 5, 1848, about a month after we arrived at Oregon City we were disbanded by proclamation of the governor.

We were not all armed alike; some had rifles, some muskets, mostly old guns we had brought with us. Some furnished their own arms; others had none, and were furnished by the governor's orders. Most of the soldiers furnished their own horses, but a few did not, and the latter were furnished by the government—provisional. The provisional government furnished us provisions as well as they could, but we got a good deal from the Indians.

I, Stephen Allen Holcomb, of West Union, Washington County, Oregon, do swear that I am the identical person named in the foregoing statement as Private S. A. Holcomb, of Capt. Lawrence Hall's company of Oregon Volunteers; that the statement is true in every particular to my knowledge.

S. A. HOLCOMB.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of March, 1889, at Vancouver Barracks, Washington Territory.

[SEAL.]

F. E. PRESSLER,
Notary Public.

We enlisted in the early part of 1848 at a place 14 miles from Portland, Oregon, for the Cayuse war. We started and came by Vancouver, and went to The Dalles. The company first met the Indians at the Des Chutes River and killed several Indians, and several soldiers were wounded. There were other companies at the fight besides Hall's company. The next fight was between Willow Creek and Battle Creek, going up to Wailatpu, the name of the Whitman Mission. Then we went to Wallula (then Fort Walla Walla) to get some ammunition. We then marched to Whitman's station. We fortified ourselves by picketing with rails, having finished burying the dead. We were then about two to three weeks recruiting our horses, which were all fagged down. We marched out and met the Indians at Tukannon, and they drove us back about 20 miles, I guess, to the Touche River. There the Indians quit us. We had, I think, 27 men wounded out of the 156 engaged. We again recruited at Whitman's Station or Mission. Colonel Gilliam came to the conclusion that our time was so near up, and the Indians were out of the country, he would get the governor to discharge us. On his coming back the colonel was accidentally killed. His remains were brought home, but the command then returned to Whitman's Mission. Lieut. Col. James Waters then took command. Then we marched out into the Nez Percé's country, following the Cayuse Indians across Snake River. The Nez Percé Indians told us the Cayuse Indians were clear out of our reach. Then we came back to Whitman's. Sixty-two men of the regiment were detailed to take charge of the fort, and the rest went home. Among the latter were Captain Hall's company. We brought with us all the missionaries from the Spokane Mission, and Spaulding's Mission from among the Nez Percés.

Then we came home to The Dalles. The company was discharged about the 16th of June or July; I can not say which. I was detailed to help take care of these missionaries and did not reach Oregon City until some days after Captain Hall's company was discharged by proclamation; and so, in fact, I never was discharged in person from that day to this.

We furnished ourselves with food. Some took their horses from hereabouts; the rest were mounted on horses caught from the prairies and others captured from the Indians. We furnished ourselves with arms; I took my own gun. The Territory furnished us with ammunition.

Governor Abernethy, Colonel Gilliam, General Palmer, gave a mortgage on the Territory to the president of the Hudson's Bay Company, Douglass, for \$50,000 worth of blankets, arms, and ammunition; and as they could not fully supply us from Vancouver we had to go to Fort Walla Walla (now Wallula) for the rest, as I have before stated. We averaged about three blankets to two men throughout the campaign.

On two different occasions we were reduced to eating mule or horse meat. Once was when we were driven back from Tukannon to the Touche River.

I, Albert Stewart, a private in Capt. Lawrence Hall's company of Oregon Volunteers, know the foregoing statement regarding the services of that company, from January until June or July, 1848, is true in every particular.

ALBERT STEWART.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of March, 1848, at Vancouver Barracks, Washington Territory.

[SEAL.]

F. E. PRESSLER,
Notary Public.

I was in Captain Hall's company of Oregon Volunteers, enlisted after the Whitman massacre. The first fight we had was at Well's Springs, and Captain Hall's company was in it. We traveled from there to Whitman's Station, where the massacre took place. We went out afterwards and had a running fight from the Tucannon to Touche River, we falling back. The next expedition was out on Snake River, and crossed it, and a party of about sixty, of which I was one, went on to Colville to get the missionaries from there, which we did, and brought them back with us. After that we came down home in squads. When we got back from Colville most of the men had already gone home. I was mustered out about July 4, 1848, by proclamation of Governor Abernethy.

I am the same person before described as a member of Captain Hall's company. The statements above given about the service of the company are true to my certain knowledge.

H. H. RAMY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Vancouver Barracks, Washington Territory, this 2d day of April, 1889.

WM. E. BIRKHMIR,
Captain, Acting Judge Advocate.

Capt. Lawrence Hall's company was organized about January 8, 1848. This was in consequence of Whitman's massacre. The governor of Oregon Territory, Abernethy, called us out by proclamation. We went up the river to The Dalles, sending the horses by trail on the north side of the Columbia and crossing them over above the cascades. The men and things were taken up in boats. The idea was to get possession of The Dalles as quickly as possible. Some of the men rode their own horses. The captain went up on shore.

After we got to The Dalles we went out after the Indians on the Des Chutes. We had a battle with the Indians there. We routed the Indians and made peace with them, and captured some horses. We did not treat with the Indians; only the fight resulted in their keeping quiet the rest of the time. We then worked our way up towards the Whitman Mission. We met the Indians about 10 miles the other side of Wells' Springs, in ground they had picked. We had what we called a battle there. We fought them all day the best we could, as they had so much the advantage of us, being on fast horses. None of Captain Hall's company were killed or wounded that I remember. The company was the one chosen that day to guard the baggage wagon, and it threw us into a different position. We camped on the field, without water or food. We had nothing much to eat, but not much. Every man stood guard during part of the night, which was very cold. Next day we started on our way, and got to Umatilla with something for our stock and also something to eat. After we were rested a little we went on towards Whitman's Station. The next camping place was near Fort Walla Walla (now called Wallula). We got to Whitman's the third day after we camped on the Umatilla.

We picked up the remains of those who were not properly buried and buried them. We arranged a kind of fort and a hospital for the wounded and some sick with measles. There were quite a number wounded. Then the next thing we did was to take Joe Meek to Umatilla, to the mountains. This was done by Captain Hall's company. Meek's company was composed of George W. Meek, Jacob Lebo, and some one else, don't remember. They went under orders from Governor Abernethy to Washington. Then we went back to the fort. We dallied with some pretended friendly Indians while others were driving stock off. Then when we found this out the regiment went after them, leaving a garrison at the fort. I was taken sick with measles two days out and had to go back to the fort.

After the Tucannon fight (had while I was back sick) my next service was to go on another campaign after the Indians. We crossed Snake River near the Tucannon. We went to the mouth of the Palouse, up this river, and camped there, I think, two nights. The only Indians up to this time were the Spokanes. About this time we sent for Eels and Walker, missionaries at Fort Colville. The leader of the party sent for them was our lieutenant, O'Bryant. We saw we were not going to overtake any hostile Indians and came back towards Snake River, when we saw some, who ran, and some of them were killed, but I don't know whether they were friendly or not. We crossed Snake River somewhere above where we crossed going out and came back to the fort at Whitman's Mission.

The Indians were all gone; we could not find where they were. We gathered up some Indian stock—horses—and then started home. We were recalled, as I was informed, by order of the governor. It was after the 11th of June, 1848, that we got back to Oregon City; but I don't know just when. We met then, answered to roll-call, and were discharged, except some who happened to be absent on some duty.

We, Alvan C. Brown and Isaac Butler, privates in Capt. Lawrence Hall's company of Oregon Volunteers, each for himself, swears that the statements before made are true in every particular; they are true to my certain knowledge.

ALVAN C. BROWN.
ISAAC (his x mark) BUTLER.

Witness: WM. E. BIRKHIMER, U. S. Army.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of April, 1889, at Vancouver Barracks, Washington Territory.

[SEAL.]

F. E. PRESSLER,
Notary Public.

We, John J. Gerrish and A. Williams, privates of Capt. Lawrence Hall's company, each for himself, states that the facts set forth in the foregoing affidavit are true to his certain knowledge, and with this additional fact regarding the battle between the Tucannon and Touchet Rivers. We located the Indians on the Tucannon and took their stock. They followed us, and we kept up a running fight in retreat. We held on the cattle until 10 o'clock at night. The next day we fell back to the Touchet, where we made a stand and drove the Indians. I recollect that two men were wounded in Hall's company. I do not pretend to remember all who were wounded in the company. We killed some horses for food before we got back to the fort again.

JOHN J. GERRISH.
A. (his x mark) WILLIAMS.

Witness: WM. E. BIRKHIMER, U. S. Army.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of April, 1889, at Vancouver Barracks, Washington Territory.

[SEAL.]

F. E. PRESSLER,
Notary Public.

I, Robert Walker, farmer, of Greenville, county of Washington, and State of Oregon, being now sixty-four years of age, depose and say that I was a member of what has been known as Captain Lawrence Hall's Company of Oregon Volunteers; that said company was mustered into service on or about the 8th day of January, A. D. 1848, at Portland, Oregon; that said company left Portland, one or two days after having been mustered in, for The Dalles; that said company was to some extent provided with ammunition, blankets, and tents, and also with some flour, but to the best of my knowledge with no other provisions; that Lawrence Hall was captain of said company, and remained such all through the campaign, until we were disbanded; Hugh D. O'Brien was first lieutenant, and John Enyart was second lieutenant of said company; that from The Dalles we went after the Wascoes (Wasco Indians) up Des Chutes River, overtook them about 60 miles above the mouth of said river; did chastise them effectually, and then returned to The Dalles again.

A few days after having returned the company prepared and left for Walla Walla (present town site). On the way there we had an encounter with the Cayuse Indians. Said encounter took place about half way between what was known then as Well Springs and Umatilla. Said encounter was named and referred to afterward as the battle of the "Dry Plains." John Lousignot, a member of our company, was crippled by a rifle or musket shot. His wife is alive yet, and lives in needy circumstances. Indians were defeated in said encounter, but our horses and ponies being poorer than those used by the Indians we could not follow up our victory. Camped on battle-ground said night without water, but struck Indian camp next morning, where we found water. The Cayuse Indians, whom we had started out to punish for the murder of the Whitman family, had spread the falsehood among related tribes that the whites had slain most of the half-breeds living on French Prairie, in Marion County. We had reasons to believe that those Indians who had joined the Cayuses, after being informed that no half-breeds on French Prairie had been murdered, left the Cayuses and took no part any more in the hostile demonstrations.

Marching on further and reaching Walla Walla we threw up fortifications and named said work "Fort Waters," in honor of Major Waters, major of the regiment our company belonged to. Previous to building said fort, however, our company was detailed to escort Mr. J. L. Meek, who was on his way to Washington, D. C., as Delegate from Oregon Territory, beyond the territory occupied by hostile Indians, which was the summit of the Blue Mountains. After being back in Fort Waters or camp, we, about one month afterwards, made a raid toward the Touchet River after the Cayuses. At a certain point the colonel of the regiment ordered all of those volunteers who had horses

which could not make forty miles a day back to the fort. I was among those who went back. Those who were allowed to go forward had a most severe engagement with the Cayuses somewhere between the rivers of Snake and Touchet. After all our forces were in the fort again we about two months afterward made another raid eastward, but no hostilities took place.

After reaching the fort again we soon broke camp and prepared for returning to our homes in the different parts of western Oregon. We were disbanded at Oregon City on or about the 28th day of June, 1848. My recollection as to the names of members of our company is about as follows:

Isaac Butler, Alvin C. Brown, John Butt, S. T. Cook, T. R. Cornelius, Abraham Engart, Peter S. Engart, Thomas Fleming, Samuel Ferguson, J. J. Garrish, J. N. Green, Noah Job. Allen Kennedy, H. Lavelly, J. W. Linginfelter, John H. Linebarger, Andrew Linebarger, John Lousignot, Gilbert Mundan, Marchall Martin, G. H. Merch, P. G. Northrup, W. R. Nolan, Sherry Ross, F. H. Ramsey, S. Richards, William Sheldon, William Slockes, D. C. Smith, Isaac Smith, J. L. Scroggin, H. M. Stephens, A. Stewart, D. Shoemaker, John Sylvester, A. Williams, W. M. Walter, Randall Yarbaron, John J. Zachary, and A. Zachary.

The statement above given and the names mentioned are all to the best of my recollection.

ROBERT WALKER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of April, A. D. 1889.

[SEAL.]

ANTON PFANNER,
Notary Public for Oregon.

On or about the 7th of December, 1847, intelligence was received in the Willamette Valley that Dr. Whitman and others had been cruelly murdered by the Cayuse Indians in the Walla Walla country, and a report was also flying over the country that the Indians contemplated an attack on the Willamette settlements, intending to massacre all, and thus wipe out the whites. These two reports being substantiated, meetings were held, and those in authority decided it would be better to meet the foe in the Indian country and fight it out there rather than have the horrors of an Indian war in their midst. Therefore couriers were sent out over the country calling for volunteers. The call was readily responded to, the men equipping themselves and gathering at Portland, where Hall's company of Oregon volunteers were organized, with Lawrence Hall as captain, H. D. O'Bryant, first lieutenant, John Enyard, second lieutenant, and William Sheldon, orderly sergeant. The men of Hall's company were from Washington County, Oregon, and each man furnished his own horse and outfit, and each mess a pack-horse. About the 1st of January, 1848, we started on the line of march for the Cayuse country. We traveled by land from Portland to Vancouver, where we procured boats of the Hudson Bay Company and crossed to the north side of the Columbia, then we followed up the Hudson Bay trails to a point above the Cascades, where we constructed a boat and crossed back to the south side of the Columbia, thence to The Dalles, the first fight with the Indians being on the Des Chutes River, 20 miles above its mouth. The whites were victorious. Hall's company took part in all engagements with the Indians. The second fight was at Well's Springs, on the old emigrant road, where we were met by about six hundred Indians, when a battle ensued, lasting from early morning until dark. The volunteers again won the battle. We then proceeded to Waiilatpu Mission, where we buried the dead who were left scattered about the yards, then we tore down the mission buildings and built a small fort of the sun-dried bricks which had formed the walls of the mission. We also built a stockade for the horses. After getting the defenses built and all settled, Captain Hall's company and one other were detailed to escort Joseph L. Meek and party to the Blue Mountains, as he started to Washington to seek aid. We accompanied them to the snow line then returned to camp.

The third fight with the Indians occurred between the mouth of Tucannon and Touchet; we fought two days and nights, and with marching and fighting were out three days and nights without food.

The suffering was great, as we had to carry the wounded on litters and our progress was slow; the first food we got was Cayuse horse-meat. The volunteers subsisted on just what the country afforded; that was chiefly beef and horse-meat, we had no flour. During the last-named fight there were ninety volunteers and about seven hundred Indians in the battle. We, however, conquered the Indians and drove them out of the country and they abandoned the idea of invading the settlements; thus we saved Oregon. The volunteers scoured the whole country and drove the Indians out after the recruits came in the spring. We then returned to the Willamette and were discharged at Oregon City by Governor Abernethy about the last of June, having served six months, which were

six long months of toil and hardships and danger. We were in active service all the time we were in service. A company went out to Spokane and brought in Walker and Eels, the missionaries at that place.

The following names are of members of Capt. Lawrence Hall's company of Oregon volunteers, so far as I remember:

Thomas Cornelius, Robert Walker, Asa Williams, ——— Mundon, Charlie Smith, John Lienberger, John Louisinall, Andrew Lienberger, Perry Northrup, John Zachary, John Garrish, ——— Harper, ——— Tupper, ——— Tupper, Randall Yarbour, Noah Job, Isaac Butler, Alvin Brown, Tom Kinsey, Alvin Kinsey, Joe Scott, Ape Enyard, La Fayette Scroggins, Sherry Ross, William W. Walter.

W. W. WALTER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of April, 1889.

[SEAL.]

JAS. S. HAVILAND, JR.,

Notary Public.

STATE OF OREGON, *County of Tillamook:*

I, Isaac W. Smith, being first duly sworn, do depose and say: I am a resident of Tillamook County, State of Oregon; that I am in the seventy-fifth year of my age; that in the year 1847 I was commissioned by Governor Abernathy to raise a volunteer company of citizen soldiers to fight the Indians. I lived in what was then called Tualatin County (now Washington), near Hillsborough. I at once went to Portland and enlisted a company of men; the precise number I do not now remember. Immediately after the enlistment was completed the company elected Lawrence Hall, captain; Hugh O'Brien, first lieutenant; second lieutenant, John Inyard; orderly sergeant, Mr. Sheldon; I do not remember his initials. After electing all other officers the company was turned over to Colonel Gilliam, and we went immediately to The Dalles via the Columbia River. After a short delay at The Dalles we proceeded to the Des Chutes River. There we met and had a battle with the Indians. We had but one man wounded. One Indian we know was killed, and others wounded. The engagement lasted about two hours, when the Indians retreated. We then returned to The Dalles. On or about the 16th day of February, 1848, we left The Dalles for the Blue Mountains. We camped the first day at Ten-Mile Creek. The far-famed Joe Meek was with us, who was pleased to style himself "envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from the republic of Oregon to the Government of the United States." He was with us when we fought the battle of Dry Plains. We were thirty-six hours without water.

After we had whipped the Indians at the Des Chutes three of their chiefs followed us to what is called Bubbling Springs, and told us that on the next day, at about 10 o'clock, the Cayuses would meet us and fight, and they did so. This was the "Dry Plain battle." In this engagement we had only one man wounded; some Indians were killed, but I can not now recall the number. This manner of fighting was such that it was hard to reach them. After this engagement we repaired to Walla Walla. We then marched to Whitman's Station, where we made our headquarters. W. D. Stillwell and I were appointed guards to conduct Joe Meek to the top of the Blue Mountains to avoid the Indians. Meek was on his way to Washington City, across the plains, with eight other men. We were in constant danger of hostile Indians; much of the time without water, and lived much of the time on half rations. Our bodies as well as our souls were tried. We were scarce of blankets and clothing, and were never safe from our lurking foes, who knew the country thoroughly, while we were comparatively ignorant of it. We were constantly harassed by conflicting reports, and were in a constant state of apprehension of Indian attacks. While we were camped at Whitman's Station we could not learn where the Indians were, so Colonel Gilliam started with a hundred men to see where they were. They found them at a stream called Tucannon, and we captured about 500 head of cattle and horses. This brought upon us about 400 warriors, and we lost all the stock we had captured, and we starved two days and one night, and the doctor told us to eat young grass. (I did not like the diet.) We killed two fillies, but hungry as I was I could not eat it. The night after the battle of Dry Plain we camped on the Umatilla River. We were in the service in all about six months.

[SEAL.]

ISAAC W. (his x mark) SMITH.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of April, 1889.

I. T. MAULSBY,

Notary Public of the State of Oregon for Tillamook County.

STATE OF OREGON, *County of Washington, ss:*

I, F. R. Cornelius, being first duly sworn, say that I was a member of Captain Lawrence Hall's company of Oregon mounted volunteers; that said company was organized on or about the 9th day of January, 1848. That the officers of said company were as follows, to wit

Lawrence Hall, captain; Hugh D. O'Brien, first lieutenant; John Enyart, second lieutenant; William Sheldon, orderly sergeant; Peter S. Enyart and T. R. Cornelius were sergeants, and two others who this affiant does not remember at this time. Said company was mustered into the service of the Territory of Oregon under the provisional government in accordance with the proclamation of George Abernathy, then governor. That the officers and men furnished their own horses, arms, and equipments, and clothing and ammunition partly. The Territory furnished a very scant supply of provisions to last said company until they arrived into the Walla Walla Valley, or about fifty days; after which we supplied ourselves with provisions off of the enemy, consisting mostly of cattle which had been taken by them from former emigrations. Said company left Portland, Oregon, on or about the 10th day of January, 1848, furnishing their own transportation, traveling by trail up the Columbia River, crossing said river at Vancouver, Washington Territory, thence up on the north side to a point about 20 miles above the Cascades Falls, where we crossed over to the south side; thence to The Dalles; thence up the Columbia River to the mouth of Des Chutes River; thence up the said river on the east side for a distance of about 40 miles, where we were attacked by Indians, where we fought for about three hours, when the Indians withdrew, they being mounted on good horses, ours being worn out and almost useless, as they had had no forage after leaving Portland except what grass they could get, which was a very scarce article on the route that we had just traveled. Under such circumstances they declined to fight unless they had every advantage.

After reconnoitering round until night we camped until next day. Here we had our first ration of horse-meat. Thence we went on in a southerly direction for a few miles and found some caches of potatoes and corn, which supplied our wants until arriving at The Dalles, which we did two days later by crossing over Des Chutes River near the mouth of Tie Creek, and going directly by the Barlow route.

After remaining a few days at The Dalles said company started for Whitman's Station in the Walla Walla Valley by way of the old emigrant road. On reaching a point about 10 miles beyond Well Springs, we met the Cayuses, where we had a battle which lasted about four hours, when the Indians withdrew for the night and we remained on the ground for the night without water, food, or wood. Next morning moved on to the Umatilla River and camped over night. From thence to the Hudson's Bay Company's fort, Walla Walla, now known as Wallula. From thence to Whitman's Station, where we arrived on or about the 3d of March, 1848, after gathering the remains of the people who had been massacred by the Cayuses, which had been partially interred, but were dug out by the coyotes, or wolves. We buried them. From thence to the Umatilla River, where the Umatilla emigrant road comes off of the Blue Mountains.

This move was for the purpose of escorting J. L. Meeks's party of nine persons, who had been sent to Washington City with dispatches from the governor of Oregon to Congress. Here the company was divided, and about one half of the men went on with Meeks to the summit of the Blue Mountains, the other half reconnoitering round so as to prevent the Indians from knowing what number of men were in the mountains and what number returned, as the trip from Whitman's Station had been made under cover of night. After two days spent on the Umatilla River and vicinity we returned to Whitman by the same route that we had traveled when leaving there. On arriving there the first thing was to gather the adobes from the ruins of the mission buildings and make a fort by building walls and filling in with earth. This fort we called Fort Watters.

On or about the 11th day of March we went in search of the Indians, and after traveling two days and nights we found them camped on the Tucannon, about 4 miles above where it empties into the Snake River. On our approach they hoisted a white flag and asked for a talk, in which they claimed to be friendly Indians, and that they had no affiliation with the hostiles, but on discovering a lot of cattle and horses with the mission brand on them we surrounded about four hundred head of cattle and horses, and started for Fort Watters, but soon after found ourselves surrounded by about three hundred Indians, when a battle commenced. We marching in a hollow square until nightfall, when we were forced to take shelter behind the banks of a small stream or ravine. The Indians increasing in numbers until about midnight, we were forced to surrender up the stock which they drove off. Next morning we took up the line of march toward the fort, when the battle was renewed, and continued until we reached the River Touchet, where the Indians made a desperate stand, and, after being charged on by the volunteers and forced to leave

the crossing on the river, they withdrew from the contest, and said company proceeded towards the fort without further molestation, and succeeded in reaching Dry Creek, within about 10 miles of Fort Waters, that night, where we camped for the night, and, finding a few Indian horses, were able to get a fair supply of horse meat for supper, which was gratefully received and eaten with a relish, as we had been three days and two nights without eating or sleeping. On the next day we reached the fort, with P. A. Enyart and John Lanseynaught badly wounded. The company remained at the fort until on or about the 17th day of May, when we again started in pursuit of the Indians in the direction of the Palouse and Spokane countries.

On arriving at the Palouse country, and finding no signs of them, the company was divided, and a portion went in the direction of Fort Colville to escort Walker and Eels and their families from the Colville mission and out of the country, the remainder of the company returning by way of the Upper Palouse country, and crossing Snake River at a point then known as Red Wolf's Landing, arriving at the fort about the 4th of June. A few days later, on the arrival of the detachment from Colville, with Walker and Eels, said company started for Oregon City, Oregon, by way of The Dalles, and thence by the Barton road across the Cascade Mountain. On arriving at Oregon City, on or about the 26th day of June, 1848, were discharged.

T. R. CORNELIUS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 20th day of April, 1889.

ALONZO A. PHILLIPS,
Justice of the Peace, Cornelius, Oregon.

I, P. G. Northrup, of Mountain Dale, Washington County, Oregon, being sixty-five years of age, and following farming, being first duly sworn, say that I have been a member of what is known as Captain Lawrence Hall's Company of Oregon Volunteers, taking part in the campaign of 1848 against the Cayuse Indians; that on entering said service, or about the time of doing so, I have furnished and delivered to the commissary department that provided for said company 700 pounds of flour, 300 pounds of bacon, 3 pounds of powder, and 6 pounds of lead; that in February, 1848, while I was sick with the measles, near what is now Wallula, my rifle, for which I, on entering the service, had paid \$30 in United States gold coin, was stolen out of the commissary wagon, where it had been stored during my sickness, and has never been found or restored to me again; that flour delivered at Portland, Oregon, then had a value of \$5.50 per barrel; that bacon delivered in Portland, Oregon, then had a value of 18 cents per pound; that powder had a value then of 75 cents per pound; that lead then had a value of 10 cents per pound; that during said campaign I have furnished my own horse and provided myself with ammunition obtained at my own expense.

P. G. NORTHROP.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, the undersigned, this 24th day of May, A. D. 1889.

[SEAL.]

ANTON PFANNER,
Notary Public for Oregon.

D.

List of members of Capt. Lawrence Hall's company, made up by Robert Newell, speaker of the Oregon house of representatives, at Fort Wailatpu, from information derived from Capt. Hall relative to the matter.

NOTE.—This was the second company of the regiment.

Captain, Lawrence Hall.

First lieutenant, H. D. O'Bryant.

Second lieutenant, John Enyart.

Orderly sergeant, William Sheldon.

Duty sergeants, William Stokes, Peter S. Enyart, Thomas R. Cornelius, Sherry Ross.

Color bearer, Gilbert Mondon.

Privates—A. Enyart, Thomas Flemming, D. C. Smith, R. Yarborough, H. N. Stephens,

20 CAPTAIN HALL'S COMPANY OF OREGON VOLUNTEERS.

P. G. Northrup, W. W. Walters Robert Walker, J. Butler,* W. R. Noland, J. Q. Zachray, J. W. Smith, Joseph W. Scott, Samuel Y. Cook, J. W. Lingenfelter, G. W. Smith, J. H. Lienberger, J. J. Garish, A. Lienberger, A. Kinsey, Thomas Kinsey, John N. Donnie, J. S. Scoggin, Samuel Gethard, A. C. Brown, Noah Jobe,† John Louisingnot, J. F. Ramsey,‡ Oliver Lowden, D. Shumake, A. Williams, S. A. Holcomb, J. N. Green, D. Harper, A. Stewart, J. Elliot, S. C. Cummings, William Milburn, W. Williams, S. Ferguson, A. Kennedy, John Holgate, Marshall Martin.

E.

EXTRACT.

Report of the amount due each non-commissioned officer and private of the First Regiment of Oregon Riflemen for their services in the war between the Territory of Oregon and the Cayuse Indians.

*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Isaac Butler.....	\$267.00		John Lousignot.....	\$267.00			
Alvin C. Brown.....	267.00		Gilbert Mundan.....	267.00			
S. T. Cook.....	267.00		Marshall Martin.....	267.00			
Thomas R. Cornelius.....	267.00		P. G. Northrup.....	267.00			
J. W. Donald.....	267.00		W. R. Noland.....	216.00			
Abraham Enzart.....	267.00		Sherry Ross.....	267.00			
Peter S. Enzart.....	267.00		F. H. Ramsey.....	216.00			
Thomas Fleming.....	267.00		William Sheldon.....	267.00			
Samuel Ferguson.....	267.00		William Stokes.....	267.00			
Samuel Guthard.....	411.00		J. W. Smith.....	267.00			
J. J. Garish.....	267.00		G. W. Smith.....	267.00			
J. N. Green.....	216.00		D. C. Smith.....	267.00			
J. C. Holgate.....	267.00		J. L. Scroggin.....	267.00			
J. A. Holcomb.....	324.00		H. M. Stephens.....	267.00			
L. Harper.....	324.00		J. W. Scott.....	267.00			
Noah Job.....	267.00		A. Stewart.....	334.50			
Allen Kennedy.....	267.00		D. Shoemaker.....	267.00			
Thomas Kinney.....	267.00		William Williams.....	267.00			
A. Kinney.....	267.00		A. Williams.....	216.00			
J. W. Lingenfelter.....	267.00		W. M. Walter.....	267.00			
Oliver Lawden.....	267.00		R. Walker.....	267.00			
John H. Linebarger.....	267.00		Randall Yarbaron.....	267.00			
Andrew Linebarger.....	267.00		John J. Zachary.....	267.00			
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Oregon City, December 30, 1848.

SIR: Herewith I hand you a report of the amount due each non-commissioned officer and private of the First Regiment of Oregon Riflemen for their services in the war between the Territory of Oregon and the Cayuse Indians.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALBERT E. WILSON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

To-LOT WHITCOMB,
Acting Commanding-General.

WILLIAM E. BIRKHIMER,
Captain, Acting Judge Advocate.

NOTE.—The names of S. C. Cummings, J. Elliott, and William Milburn, included in the list of members of Captain Hall's company (Appendix D), do not appear in the foregoing report.

* In some lists he appears as "Isaac" Butler.
† In some lists he appears as Noah "Job."
‡ In some lists he appears as "F. H." Ramsey.