THE ASHLAND TIDINGS.

J. M. SUTTON, EDITOR.

FRIDAY.....JULY 12, 1878

SCRAPS OF SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORY.

We commence this week, the publication of historical sketches, pertaining to the history of Southern Oregon. It is our desire to publish these sketches as much as possible, in their chronological order. Our next sketch will occupy two numbers of the TIDINGS, giving a detailed account of the massacre of a portion of an exploring party from Port Orford, in 1851. Hon. W. G T Vault, late of this county, and Hon. L. L. Williams, present county clerk of Douglas county, were among the survivors of that affair. We are indebted to Mr. Williams for the facts in this sketch, given in a letter written to us in 1863.

AN OLD PIONEER RETURNED.

Mr. Rigdon, who has just returned from a trip down the valley, informs us that our old time friend, Rowland Hall, who has been absent some fifteen years, has recently returned to his ranch on Bear creek. Mr. Hall was the first man we formed an acquaintance with, after arriving in Oregon. We led the "old bell mare" for him and his partner, Chris. Thompson, in the fall and winter of 1851 These men had charge of Old Bolander's pack train, running from Salem to Yreka, at a time when there was not a house, save the ferry houses on Rogue river, between the north end of Umpqua canyon and Yreka. We learn that Mr. Hall's absence from this county, has been to him, but a series of misfortunes. By dint of energy and perseverance, he at times, succeeded in making "home stakes," only to be swept away by some unlooked for circumstance. At one time, he was attacked by Indians and his entire train captured, he barely escaping with his life. Discouraged and broken down in health, he returned to his old home in this valley, with $137 in his pocket. But misfortune had not yet forsaken him. Desiring to visit Jacksonville, he hid his little remaining money beneath the dilapidated floor of his old cabin. On his return, he found that his cabin had been entered and his money stolen. Never mind, Rowland, we'll make a raise yet, some day.

ALARMING INDIAM NEWS,

Battle at Camas Prairie—A Large Number of Whites and Indians killed Umatillas join the Whites—Hostiles in the Blue Mountains.

[Condensed from OREGONIAN Dispatches.]

HDQRS. DIV. OF THE CLEARWATER, Tempor'y at Ft. Walla Walla, July 3

Referring to Gen. Howard's instructions telegraphed me on 28th ult., I have to report that the movement north ward anticipated by him has actually occurred Agent Cornoyer informs me that the Umatilla Indians fought 400 hostile Snakes all day yesterday, killing 30 and losing two, at a point 40 miles south of the Agency, about 80 miles from this point. This I received late last evening, with an earnest appeal from the citizens of Pendleton near the Agency for military protection. I had an hour before receiving this intelligence just moved all my available force here, 54 men, with artillery, to Wallula, to take boat and observe points on Columbia near the mouth of John Day's river, where it was supposed the hostiles would attempt a crossing. This little river patrol I immediately recalled and they are now en route to Pendleton, 42 miles distant. Operators at points on the Columbia, report unusual signal fires burning last night, and the women and children from Umatilla and Wallula are now coming here to Walla Walla for protection. A messenger who left Pendleton at 4 A. M to-day, reports people living 6 miles beyond Pendleton as having been driven from their homes by hostiles It is exceedingly unfortunate I have no force with which to attack these 400 hostiles who are devastating the country they pass through. We cannot tell yet whether or not they will turn east toward Salmon river country. I would be glad to have any available troops sent to report here at earliest date. No communication with Gen. Howard by courier to La Grande and thence by telegraph to Malheur for several days. No communication with Portland all day. Wires down. WHEATON.

SECOND DISPATCH

WALLA WALLA, July 3 1878.

I have just received from La Grande, by courier:

BAKER CITY, June 30—9:30 P. M.

Courier arrived from Camp Harney this evening, bring no news except that Gen Howard is supposed to be near the South Fork of John Day's river This tallies with report brought in by a citizen courier who rode from Canyon City to this place in 12 hours, using but one horse, arriving here this morning, asking government aid for citizens of John Day's valley. He states that 15 citizen scouts attacked Indians, number unknown, on South Fork of John Day's river; were surrounded and still fighting; also that Indians were pouring into that valley. Soldiers, supposed to be Gen Howard's, in pursuit.

(Signed) FEBREN, Operator.

I have ordered all the cavalry in my district (three small companies) to this point without delay, but none of them are within several hundred miles of the John Day river valley. It is a cruel disappointment that I have no co operating force available to meet and check these Indians Gen Howard is evidently driving them. WHEATON.

WALLA WALLA, July 3—11:30 P M

The sheriff of Umatilla county reached here this morning, having left the scene of the present hostilities last night about 10 o'clock. From the Umatillas and Major Cornoyer he learned that upon the first appearance of the Bannocks they offered to barter their plunder, consisting of 2,000 horses and merchandise, for their assistance, promising not to disturb or molest any of the property belonging to the Umatillas. In addition, the Bannocks stated that whether they received assistance or not, they proposed to fight their way to the Columbia river, that they were determined to cross that stream, and that when once across they would not require any assistance. The Umatillas declined to accept the offers thus tendered when the Bannocks opened fire. The Umatillas numbered about 60 Of these only 30 were armed. Cornoyer reported two of his men killed. The location of this fight is about 40 miles from Pendleton.

LATER—The stage that left Pendleton 6 o'clock this evening has just reached here, and brings the intelligence of the courier at that point, who reports that the Umatillas had been defeated and were falling back toward the reservation, the Bannocks being in pursuit This courier reports the number of Bannock warriors at 600, and the entire number of hostiles, including men women and children to be 2,000. They are well armed, and the warriors mounted on fine American horses, most of which were captured in the recent raid through the John Day country On receipt of the news the stage station at Cayuse was abandoned, the stock and vehicles being removed to a less dangerous locality. All the country for miles around the vicinity of Pendleton is being deserted. The settlers and their families are fleeing to the towns for protection The roads leading to Weston and other points in this vicinity are lined with the panic stricken settlers.

A company of 50 men under command of Col Cornoyer, left Pendleton this morning. This force will be increased by at least 50 more at Pilot Rock. A volunteer company has been organized at Weston The lack of arms prevents the organization of other companies. Major Throckmorton with two companies will push on and will be at Pendleton at an early hour in the morning. Reports that the Bannocks are receiving accessions to their ranks from the renegrade Indians in this vicinity are in circulation, but I am unable to trace them to any reliable source. That there are a number of Moses' Indians with them is known to be a fact, but how many it is impossible to state; probably not more than thirty, as he (Moses) reports that number missing from his band, and is of the opinion they have joined the hostiles. It is certain that the force under Buffalo Horn increases rather than diminishes All the information that he gathered renders it almost certain that the hostiles intend to cross the Columbia somewhere between Wallula and Snake river. From where they now are, one day's march over good trail will bring them to the desired place. The military authorities here under Gen. Wheaton are active, but owing to the insufficiency of the force at hand, are powerless, many of the companies being reduced to twenty men, and some are even below that number.

CELILO, July 3

Fires are burning on the hills up the Columbia. A friendly Indian told me to-day to tell the people on the Deschuttes to be on their guard, as the hostiles were going to divide in small bands and scatter, crossing the Columbia wherever they could.

McDONALD

John R Foster Esq. has just received the following dispatch from Umatilla landing, signed by J. H. Kunzie, and is doubtless reliable The dispatch is of date Wednesday:

Umatilla Indians, under Cornover, and settlers, are fighting hostile Indians in the Blue mountains, 80 miles from here. People of Heppner have fortified. Soldiers left Walla Walla for locality of fighting at half past two o'clock last night. Most of the women and children leave here for Walla Walla by to-day's boat. We expect to fortify in stone warehouse to night.

J. H KUNZIE.

WALLA WALLA, July 3 1878.

The latest is that the citizens of Pendleton have joined the Umatillas in a fight against 400 Snakes, and are fighting them to day on Birch creek, six miles from Pendleton; have sent herder for aid. There is a company organizing here now and will probably start out right away. There is a good deal of excitement here on the streets and the town is guarded at night. The city council sent out a lot of couriers last night over towards Pendleton None have returned yet; may have some more news as soon as any of them come in.

UMATILLA, July 3, 1878.

Henry Bowman:

Indian runners just in to gather Columbia river Indians to fight the hostiles, say there was no fight on Birch creek, but at Camas Prairie. They left the battle field yesterday. A large number of Indians and whites were killed. They say the hostiles expect to go down John Day's and extend from there to the head of Birch creek Sheep herders have all left the mountains.

SUSANVILLE, Modoc Co., Cal., July 5—Eight families from Surprise valley have just arrived in town. The Indians have been within eight miles of the valley. They stole stock and took the contents of the cabins. Friendly Pintes have warned the settlers that the hostiles were coming to take the valley.

Following is an extract from a letter from Mr. E. E. Turk to C. B Bellinger, Esq:

CANYON CITY, July 1 2 A M

I have just returned from carrying dispatches to Col. Grover's command, Everything is disorganized; Indians all around us; Carrie and the children are in tunnel taking care of the wounded. We have been fighting for the last three days; can't tell how many are killed; we know of eleven of our men. we want help. I have been in the saddle for three nights. all of the business houses are closed

LATEST FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

The news from the seat of war is of the most exciting nature. A fight occurred on the 6th instant, about 30 miles from Umatilla at a place known as Camas Prairie, in which a company of 50 volunteers was defeated. Many conflicting rumors have been received in regard to this fight. At first, it was reported that but seven of the company escaped. The following is the latest dispatch:

UMATILLA July 7, 10 A. M

The stage is just in from Pendleton. Driver reports four men dead instead of two.

UMATILLA July 7

The following is from Pendleton July 7, 2 P. M:

To Gov. Chadwick, Umatilla—A 2:30 A M., on the 6th, we were attacked by Indians, while taking lunch at Willow springs, about 30 miles distant from Pendleton. The Indians surrounded our company of 45 volunteers. Eleven or twelve men bolted through the ranks of the Indians and left the remainder, who fought bravely under cover of a sheep shed. Fighting lasted about six hours, when the Indians moved off. At 12 o'clock, midnight, volunteers moved toward Pendleton About half a mile from the scene of battle the Indians again attacked us by firing from both sides, being within 15 yards of our men. Firing lasted but a few minutes. The men moved on a few hundred yards and were attacked again. They moved again, perhaps a mile and a half, and were fired on again, and then moved two miles and were fired on for the last time The number of the Indians is estimated at from 100 to 150 Some Indians were killed. Two volunteers were killed and eight men wounded

J L SPERRY.

The following was brought into Umatilla, by two scouts from Gen. Howard, on the 6th:

Umatillas join the Hostiles.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA IN THE FIELD July 5, 1878.

Col. Frank Wheaton, Second Infantry, Walla Walla—COLONEL: The General directs me to say you will immediately hire a steamboat, equip it with artillery and cause it to patrol the Columbia river in order to intercept the hostiles should they attempt to cross that river. The present location of the Indians is on the North Fork of John Day's river near the mouth of Granite creek If they continue moving northward they will strike the Columbia river somewhere about the mouth of Willow creek They may, however turn eastward, passing by the head of Camas creek and keep to the left of Grande Ronde. You will keep a bright look out, in order to strike them as soon as they get into your neighborhood. Gen. Howard is with the cavalry; and will follow on the trail Sanford has been ordered from Malheur to report to Grover. Egbert has been ordered from Boise, making fastest time on the stage road northward. Order three hundred horse equipments to Walla Walla to mount cavalry if horses can be procured. Umatilla Indians have joined the hostiles, stealing horses and moved in with them; the trails indicate a very large number of horses, with about 1 000 horses.

MASON A. A Q

DALLES, July 6.—The stage is in from Canyon City A discharged soldier, named Thompson, from Lister's ranch, about 25 miles from Canyon City reports the hostiles strongly fortified 25 miles from there waiting to give Gen. Howard battle Howard's forces were expected up to engage the hostiles on the morning of the 5th inst. There are about 1 600 Indians all told; supposed to be 1 000 Indians armed.

N. D SINNOT.

UMATILLA July 7, 8 P M.

The following has just been received by Gov Chadwick through special courier from Pendleton: The boys had a fight with the Indians at what is known as Willow springs 30 miles from this place Capt. Sperry, with 45 volunteers, fought them all day yesterday and last night. He lost two men killed A Lamar and H Hale, and some seven or eight wounded The wounded were all brought in to Pilot rock and will be in Pendleton soon. Some of them are already here Chas. Henderson Jacob Frazer Sylvester Lawson, S. R the child Arthur Crosfield, Frank Hannan and Wm. Tidworth are the names of the wounded I believe. We send out a guard for guns. Have the court house square entrenched, and will be able to give the red devils a warm reception if they should pay us a visit. We shall keep you posted at all times in regard to movements here.

Major Throckmorton left last night for the scene of action with 115 men, and 54 more have gone to him to day.

Our men broke camp last night at 12 o'clock and fought their way out, losing one man on the way. They were pursued by the Indians till daylight. They loaded the wounded in a wagon and brought them in All the men engaged in the fight displayed remarkable courage and coolness and were complimented by Major Throckmorton for their gallantry.

J. H TURNER
J B KEANEY

MATTERS IN GRANT COUNTY.

S. B. Parish writes from Granite creek, July 1s:

The women and children of Canyon City are in one of the large tunnels on the other side of town. Some reports say there are 2 000 Indians. They started for Fox valley yesterday. Bernard with 250 men came out John Day valley yesterday. Jackson with 60 came up to-morrow. It may be best to send the women and children down here yet I don't think the Indians will come this way. I shall start for Canyon City to night.

Capt Kress is at Umatilla with steamer and Gatling gun.

The Governor hopes to get reinforcements of volunteers from the Dalles at once.

Gov Ferry, of Washington territory, is at Walla Walla making all possible preparations

Two companies from Arizona arrived on the *Idaho* will go up the river this (Monday) morning.

About thirty-five families are now at Umatilla landing. They will be forwarded down the river.

Indians have passed the head of John Day and are on the head of Birch creek Howard in their rear

Another effort to cross.

UMATILLA, July 8—6 P M.

Capt. Wilkinson, with the steamer *Northwest* made an attack this afternoon on band of Indians crossing horses over the river about eight miles above here killing a large number of horses and, it is supposed an Indian or two.

LATEST—On Monday night a party of hostiles attempted to cross the Columbia river 15 miles below Umatilla. They were swimming their horses, some 200 in number, when Maj Kress came upon them, in the steamer *Spokane*. Some of the horses crossed over but most of them returned to the Oregon side—a number of the horses were killed. Major Kress then made an attack on the Indians' camp and destroyed it and everything about it including all the camas. A number of saddle blankets and buffalo robes were found at the camp Squads of hostiles have been in sight all the morning with stock. Scouts are out Gen Howard was at Pilot Rock yesterday, and probably moving this way. One small band of Indians with about eighty head of horses, passed down opposite, and in sight of this place this morning to join the hostiles that crossed below.

GEO. NUTLEY.

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v2n34tf] H. F PHILLIPS

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May 24 1878 (2-50)

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