

AN INDIAN WAR STORY

In which Figured one of Goose Lake's
Prominent Farmers--John
O'Neil Fought Indians in
1858 in the Palouse
Country.

WRITTEN FOR THE SPO-
KANE-SPOKESMAN REVIEW

(By B. F. Manning.)

Many a traveler passing among received a request from the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane tribes to come to the famed Palouse country, noting into their country for the purpose of the wealth of improvement of the holding a council with a view to ar- thickly laid out farms, the triumph riving at a treaty settling the question of quiet and peaceful occupancy. It's the suspects that the white man's and other questions incidental to possession of that fertile region was at one time bitterly contested by the Indian tribes which are now crowded beyond its borders. In fact, not many of the residents of that country realize that bloody encounters have occurred among the hills and valleys between United States soldiers and Spokane, Coeur d'Alene and other Indian tribesmen, and that 50 years ago the white man who ventured to cross that then bunch grass covered plain, on his way to or from the Canadian boundary, or in a coastwise direction, was fortunate indeed if, before reaching his destination, his scalp was not required of him.

In 1858, less than 50 years ago, occurred the most notable military expeditions into and through the Palouse country of which we have any history, namely, those of Colonels Steptoe and Wright. Unfortunately, of the details of these the history we have is mainly traditional, burdened heavily with the delusions.

BUT FEW SURVIVORS.

There are now but few survivors of those expeditions, and, probably, as few of the Indians who opposed them, left to tell the story. The writer, therefore, considered himself especially fortunate in a recent acquaintance with a man who participated in both expeditions, and from whom he has learned many details of those events which were never found in any published record. This gentleman is John O'Neil, who now resides just on the California side of the line between that state and Oregon, and whose property abuts against the limits of the town of New Pine creek, which is on the Oregon side.

Although residing well his three score years and ten, Mr. O'Neil is still vigorous in health and his tall, rugged form bears with apparent ease the results of hardships that have fallen to his lot in numerous successions during a life spent on the frontier and in mining regions since early manhood. As he relates his experiences with hostile Indians, the kindling of his yet keen eye and the zest displayed when the narrative portions particularly close and dangerous situations, convinces one that, in his younger days, he would have been a formidable foe in any battlefield and yet be tough, but slightly on his personal exploits. He enlisted in the army service in New York city in 1856, and was mustered out at Vancouver in 1860. His integrity is unquestioned and he enjoys the esteem of all who knows him.

MR. O'NEIL'S NARRATIVE.

Following is a brief account of the Steptoe and Wright expeditions as Mr. O'Neil related it:

In the spring of 1858, Colonel Steptoe, commander of Fort Walla Walla

Notice of Restoration of Public Lands to Settlement.

Notice of Restoration of Public Lands to Settlement and Entry. Department of the Interior, General Land Office, Washington, D. C., February 4, 1905. Notice is hereby given that on January 5, 1905, the Secretary of the Interior released the following described areas from temporary withdrawals theretofore made for forest reserve purposes, and restored to settlement all the vacant public lands, not otherwise reserved, therein; and that the said lands so restored to settlement on January 5, 1905, and not otherwise reserved, will become subject to entry, filing and selection, under the usual restrictions, at the respective United States Land Offices for the two land districts in which the lands lie, viz.: The Dalles and Lakeview, Oregon, on May 23, 1905; In The Dalles Land District; In Township 17 S., Range 10 E., NE_{1/4} Sec. 7, E_{1/4} Sec. 21, W. M.; In Township 18 S., Range 11 E., the entire township; In Township 18 S., Range 10 E., Secs. 1, 2 and 3, E_{1/4} Sec. 4, SE_{1/4} Sec. 8, SW_{1/4} Sec. 9, SW_{1/4} Sec. 1, Secs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16, SW_{1/4} Sec. 22, Secs. 23, 24, 25 and 27, E_{1/4} Sec. 34, Secs. 35 and 36; In Township 27 S., Range 12 E., W_{1/4} Sec. 1, Secs. 2, 3, 11, 12, 13 and 14, SW_{1/4} Sec. 15, Sec. 16, SW_{1/4} Sec. 22, Secs. 23, 24, 25 and 26, E_{1/4} Sec. 27, SE_{1/4} Sec. 33, SW_{1/4} Sec. 34, NE_{1/4} Sec. 35, Sec. 36; In Township 28 S., Range 17 E., W_{1/4} Sec. 1, Sec. 2, sec. 3, E_{1/4} Sec. 4, SW_{1/4} and NW_{1/4} Sec. 6, Secs. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34; In Township 29 S., Range 12 E., Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21, W_{1/4} Sec. 19, W_{1/4} Sec. 30; In Township 27 S., Range 13 E., Sec. 30; In Township 28 S., Range 13 E., Sec. 30; In Township 29 S., Range 13 E., Secs. 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34; In Township 29 S., Range 14 E., Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, In Township 29 S., Range 14 E., Secs. 1, 2 and 3, NE_{1/4} Sec. 10, SW_{1/4} Sec. 11, SW_{1/4} Sec. 12, SW_{1/4} Sec. 13, SW_{1/4} Sec. 14, SW_{1/4} Sec. 15, SW_{1/4} Sec. 16, SW_{1/4} Sec. 17, SW_{1/4} Sec. 18, SW_{1/4} Sec. 19, SW_{1/4} Sec. 20, SW_{1/4} Sec. 21, SW_{1/4} Sec. 22, SW_{1/4} Sec. 23, SW_{1/4} Sec. 24, SW_{1/4} Sec. 25, SW_{1/4} Sec. 26, SW_{1/4} Sec. 27, SW_{1/4} Sec. 28, SW_{1/4} Sec. 29, SW_{1/4} Sec. 30, SW_{1/4} Sec. 31, SW_{1/4} Sec. 32, SW_{1/4} Sec. 33, SW_{1/4} Sec. 34, SW_{1/4} Sec. 35, SW_{1/4} Sec. 36, SW_{1/4} Sec. 37, SW_{1/4} Sec. 38, SW_{1/4} Sec. 39, SW_{1/4} Sec. 40, SW_{1/4} Sec. 41, SW_{1/4} Sec. 42, SW_{1/4} Sec. 43, SW_{1/4} Sec. 44, SW_{1/4} Sec. 45, SW_{1/4} Sec. 46, SW_{1/4} Sec. 47, SW_{1/4} Sec. 48, SW_{1/4} Sec. 49, SW_{1/4} Sec. 50, SW_{1/4} 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