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Author(s): J. Orin Oliphant

Source: *The Washington Historical Quarterly*, Jan., 1925, Vol. 16, No. 1 (Jan., 1925), pp. 29-48

Published by: University of Washington

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40475480>

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## OLD FORT COLVILLE\*

The year 1925 marks the hundredth anniversary of the founding of old Fort Colville, which for many years was the most important interior trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company in the Oregon Country. In the year 1821 the North-West Company was merged with the Hudson's Bay Company, and soon thereafter was begun the systematic exploitation of the fur-trade in the lands drained by the Columbia River and its tributaries. The North-westerners, in the summer of 1810, had established Spokane House near the confluence of the Spokane and the Little Spokane Rivers. Near this establishment Fort Spokane was started by the partners of John Jacob Astor in the summer of 1812. In the following year the Astorians sold out their interests in Oregon to the North-westerners, and eight years later, by the merger heretofore mentioned, all of these holdings came into the possession of the Hudson's Bay Company. As the trade of the Hudson's Bay Company developed, it was felt that some changes in the locations of trading posts were needed. Accordingly, in 1825, Fort Vancouver was established on the north side of the Columbia River, and became the emporium of the fur-trade in the Pacific Northwest. At about the same time it was decided that Spokane House should be abandoned and that a new post, to be known as Colville, should be erected near the Kettle Falls of the Columbia River, in what is now Stevens County, Washington.

Our knowledge of the beginnings of this establishment is gleaned from the writings of Alexander Ross,<sup>1</sup> a former employe of Astor who took service under the North-West Company when

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\*It is the purpose of this article to bring together information regarding old Fort Colville from its inception in 1825 to the final abandonment of it by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1871. The present year marks the hundredth anniversary of the founding of this important fur-trading establishment, and it therefore seems fitting that some of the activities of the post should at this time be passed in brief review. This is not intended to be a critical study, but rather a chronological presentation of contemporaneous descriptions and points of view. The distinction between the Hudson's Bay Company's establishment, which was located on Marcus Flat, near the Kettle Falls of the Columbia River, and the present town of Colville, should be kept in mind. Old Fort Colville was named in honor of Andrew Colville (or Colvile), who was at one time governor in London of the Hudson's Bay Company. The spelling of Colville has been disputed. Some authorities insist that the proper spelling is "Colvile." Wherever "Colville" has appeared in a quotation I have preserved that spelling; on other occasions I have adopted the more common spelling. In the preparation of this article I have been much indebted to the scholarly researches of William S. Lewis of Spokane, corresponding secretary of the Eastern Washington State Historical Society, and to T. C. Elliott of Walla Walla, who edited several of the *Work Journals*. I am also indebted to C. S. Kingston, vice president of the State Normal School at Cheney, for criticisms and helpful suggestions, as well as to J. A. Meyers of Meyers Falls.

<sup>1</sup> Alexander Ross came out to the Pacific Northwest on the ship *Tonquin*, Captain Jonathan Thorn, as a member of the Astor party, with the rank of clerk. During the next few years he was prominently identified with the fur-trading activities in the Old Oregon Country and later wrote extensively of his experiences in the Pacific Northwest.

Astoria was sold, and later became an employe of the Hudson's Bay Company, and of John Work,<sup>2</sup> an employe of the Hudson's Bay Company. We are informed by Ross that on April 12, 1825, he arrived at the mouth of the Spokane River, where he had an interview with Sir George Simpson, governor in North America of the Hudson's Bay Company, who was on his way across the Rocky Mountains to Rupert's Land. Ross proceeded to the Red River Country in company with Governor Simpson, the party consisting of Chief Factor M'Millan, Ross's son, two Indian boys, in addition to Simpson and Ross, "together with 15 men, all embarked on board of two boats."<sup>3</sup> From the mouth of the Spokane the party passed on to the Kettle Falls, "distant about 82 miles," and of this place Ross wrote the following description:

"At this place, the site of a new establishment, to be named 'Colville,' was marked out close to the Falls.<sup>4</sup> The situation of Colville has been extolled by many as a delightful spot; there is a small luxuriant vale of some acres in extent, where the fort is to be built, under the brow of a woody height; this is so far pleasant enough, but in every other respect the prospect on all sides is limited. The place is secluded and gloomy; unless the unceasing noise of the Falls in front, and a country skirted on the opposite side of the river with barren and sterile rocks and impenetrable forests in the rear, can compensate for the want of variety in other respects. If so, the place may, indeed, be called delightful; otherwise, there are very few places in this part of the country less attractive or more wild."<sup>5</sup>

At "Columbia Lake 16th Apl. 1825" Governor Simpson addressed a letter to John Work, which was handed to Work on his arrival at Spokane House on July 20, 1825. In this letter Governor Simpson said:

"I have lined out the site of a new establishment at the Kettle Falls and wish you to commence building and transporting

<sup>2</sup> T. C. Elliott (*Wash. Hist. Quart.*, III, 199) insists that this name is properly spelled "Wark," and this spelling appears in the "Journal and Letters of David Douglas" (*Quart. Ore Hist. Soc.*, V, 335); but I find in the *Journal Kept by David Douglas During His Travels in North America, 1823-1827* (London: William Wesley & Son, 1914) that the name is spelled "Work." For some mention of the career of Work consult Mr. Elliott's valuable introductions and footnotes to the installments of the *Work Journals* printed in the *Wash. Hist. Quart.*, III and V. See also a life sketch of Work in Lewis and Phillips, *The Journal of John Work* (Cleveland: Clark, 1923).

<sup>3</sup> *The Fur Hunters of the Far West*, II, 159-161.

<sup>4</sup> "Fort Colville was staked out by Governor Simpson on April 14, 1825."—*Ronald MacDonald, 1824-1804*, p. 103, footnote 94.

<sup>5</sup> Ross, *The Fur Hunters of the Far West*, II, 162.

the property from Spokane as early as possible. Mr. Birnie<sup>6</sup> has been directed to plant about 5 kegs of potatoes<sup>7</sup>—You will be so good as (to) take great care of them the produce to be reserved for seed, not eat, as next spring I expect that from 30 to 40 Bushels will be planted.—Pray let every possible exertion be used to buy up an abundant stock of Fish and other Provisions country produce, as no imported provisions can in future be forwarded from the coast.”<sup>8</sup>

Work, who had been put in charge of the outfit destined for Spokane, set out from Vancouver on June 21, 1825, with a brigade for the interior. From Fort Nez Percés he proceeded with a party up the Snake River to the Clearwater to purchase from the Indians horses for use in the interior country. On July 18, 1825, with six men, an Indian guide and 106 horses, he set out from the Snake River across the Palouse Country for Spokane House. In his journal entry for this day he speaks somewhat at length of the proposed establishment at the Kettle Falls, declaring that his “object in accompanying the horses besides seeing them taken care of principally is to visit Spokane, see how affairs stand there and consult with Mr. Birnie as to the practicability of getting all the property, etc., removed at once to the Kettle Falls so that the whole may be there by the time the boats arrive. . . . In order to enable us to put the above plan in execution I got Mr. Dease<sup>10</sup> prevailed upon to supply Spokane with 11 Pack Horses which are certainly very few considering that there are only eight at Spokane, and there is little prospect of being able to hire any from the Indians as removing the Fort is likely to be disagreeable to

6 James Birnie, at this time in charge of Spokane House, a trading establishment located at the junction of the Spokane, and the Little Spokane Rivers, nine miles northwest of the present city of Spokane. Spokane House was established in the summer of 1810. Birnie was a Scotsman who entered Oregon in 1818. He remained for many years at Fort George (Astoria). Finally he retired to Cathlamet, where he died December 21, 1861, aged 69 years.—Bancroft, *History of Oregon*, I, 41, footnote.

7 The instructions of Governor Simpson in this matter were evidently carried out, for we read in Work's *Journal*, under date of July 21, 1825, the following: “Six kegs [of potatoes] which were sowed at the Kettle Falls also looked well the last time people were there they have been hoed twice.”—*Wash. Hist. Quart.*, V, 97-98.

8 “Journal of John Work,” *Wash. Hist. Quart.*, V, 98

9 *Ibid.*, p. 87.

10 John Warren Dease, a chief trader, was at this time in charge of Fort Nez Percés, or Walla Walla (now Wallula). See footnote by Mr. Elliott, *Wash. Hist. Quart.*, V, 87; also see “Journal and Letters of David Douglas,” *Quart. Ore. Hist. Soc.*, V, 334-335. In the *Journal Kept by David Douglas During His Travels in North America*, 1823-1827, p. 161, appears the following sentence: “Arrived at the junction of the Spokane River with the Columbia at sunset, where we found John Warren Dease, Esq., commandant in the interior, and a party of fourteen men, on their way up to the Kettle Falls, ninety miles further up the Columbia.”

them.<sup>11</sup> I have also brought two men intended to be left at Spokane to assist. I also wished much that Mr. Dears<sup>12</sup> should accompany me for the same purpose, so that he might proceed to the Kettle Falls & remain in charge of the property with one man while the transportation of the property was going on, but Mr. Dease would not consent to his coming. . . ."<sup>13</sup> Work clearly indicated that he was not pleased with the objections to his proposal made by Mr. Dease.

Arrived at Spokane, Work was handed the letter from Governor Simpson. The following day, so Work tells us in his *Journal*, he was employed in "examining the property to be transported to the Kettle Falls and find that the whole amounts to 254 pieces including trading goods, provisions, stores & sundries. Mr. Birnie has been actively & diligently employed during the summer, & has almost the whole tied up and ready to be put on horseback. Had Mr. Dears been permitted to accompany me I could have returned to Okanogan with an Indian, and the transportation of the property might have commenced immediately as Mr. Dears with one man could have remained in charge of the property at Kettle Falls. But now as the horses which I brought with me must be returned to Okanogan and it being necessary that I should be at that place to receive the goods and to accompany the boats up, and no one being here to spare to take charge of the goods at the Kettle falls, and leave enough to remain here with Mr. Birnie and to attend to the horses on the voyage, the conveying the property must be deferred until Mr. Dease and some men can be sent from Okanogan and the first trip will be at the Kettle Falls by the time the boats arrive."<sup>14</sup>

Two days later, on July 23, 1825, we find Work setting out for Fort Okanogan, and on August 4 he had reached the mouth of the Spokane River on his return journey to Spokane House. In his journal entry under this date he wrote that he had been occu-

<sup>11</sup> Governor Simpson, in a letter written on April 16, 1825, to Work, said that the "Spokans will not be pleased at the removal of the Fort."—*Wash. Hist. Quart.*, V, 99. After his arrival at Spokane House, Work, on July 21, 1825, wrote the following in his *Journal*: "From the dislike the Indians have to the removal of the Fort, of which they have heard some vague reports, which they seem unwilling to believe, there is reason to apprehend that no assistance will be received from them in the horse way which will very much retard our business, as the number of horses which we have, about 34, will be a long time conveying all these pieces."—*Ibid.*, p. 97. On March 21, 1826, Work, speaking of the abandonment of Spokane House, says: "The Indians much regret our going off, and frequently complain that they will be pitiful when the whites leave them."—*Ibid.*, p. 279. More than twelve years elapsed after the abandonment of the Spokane House before Elkanah Walker and Cushing Tells established their mission at Tshimakain in order that they might labor among these Indians.

<sup>12</sup> Thomas Dears, a clerk of the Hudson's Bay Company who was not attached to any post.—T. C. Elliott, in *Wash. Hist. Quart.*, V, footnote, p. 87.

<sup>13</sup> "Journal of John Work," *Wash. Hist. Quart.*, V, 94-95.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 97.

pied in "distributing property" and "also in laying out the goods for Rocky Mountain that are to go to Kettle falls, and some boxes of tools for the building at Kettle Falls."<sup>15</sup> On the following day, August 5, he "left the guide P. L. Etang preparing to start with the boat and cargo destined for the R Mountains, to the Kettle Falls, where he is to remain until the 20th of next month, he has 7 men with him, who are to be employed preparing timber and, if they have time, building a store as a beginning to the new establishment, tools are sent with him for the purpose. Intend sending Mr. Dears<sup>16</sup> who I expect is arrived nearly at Spokane by this time, to Superintend the people, and L. La Bontie who is a carpenter to assist & direct in the building."<sup>17</sup>

By August 25, such had been the march of events, Work was "apprehensive we will not be able to remove to the Kettle Falls this fall as we are uncertain what assistance we may have to give the Snake people."<sup>18</sup> Nevertheless, we read that on August 29 he "sent off 9 men with some tools etc to the Kettle falls to assist with the buildings," and that he intended following them "tomorrow or next day, to see how the business is going on. Getting the store completed is the first object."<sup>19</sup> Two days later, August 31, the weather was "pleasant," and Work "set out from Spokane accompanied by an Indian with 3 horses & some articles, required for building and trade, to the Kettle falls at 8 o'clock and encamped at an old burn on a little river in the evening at 5 o'clock." At noon on the following day Work arrived at the new establishment, where he found at work the men whom he had sent from Spokane on the 29th. But he was not pleased with the slow progress which had been made on the construction of buildings. Writing under date of September 1, he said:

"The men who were here before have made but very little progress in the work. 7 men of them have been employed since the 13th of Augt. and have only squared 4 logs 70 feet long, 4-25 feet long, 16-12 feet long & 13 joists 25 feet long. Mr. Dears says he could not get them to go quicker, as some of them were almost always sick."<sup>20</sup>

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 104.

<sup>16</sup> Mr. Dears arrived at Spokane House from Walla Walla on August 8, and on the 10th Work, who was setting out for a visit to the country of the Flatheads, "left Mr. Dears preparing to go off to the Kettle Falls with L. La Bontie to go on with the buildings at that place."—*Ibid.*, pp. 106-107.

<sup>17</sup> "Journal of John Work," *Wash. Hist. Quart.*, V, pp. 104-105.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 111.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 112.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 113.

Work's journal entries for September 2 and 3, while he was at the Kettle Falls, read as follows:

"The men were at work at an early hour [September 2] and finished squaring the logs mentioned yesterday, the pitt saw was also put in order and a pit made to commence sawing tomorrow. A carriage with two wheels and horse harness were also furnished that carting the timber to the house may be begun tomorrow.

"The fort is to be situated in a little nick just above the falls on the South side of the River. This little nick or valley, is of a horse shoe form, about 2 miles along the River side and about 2½ or three miles in depth surrounded by steep hills on both sides, a ridge of hills runs along the opposite side of the River.<sup>21</sup> The Fort is to be situated on a sandy ridge about 600 yards from the river side. There is not a sufficiency of wood about it to build the store, that is now under way there the nearest wood is 1400 yards off on one side, 1500 or 1200 yards on the other, where a little river is to be crossed.

"I took a ride along the river, through a point where there is some fine timber. The most expeditious mode of getting the dwelling house and other houses built will be to have the timber squared a few miles from the fort and rafted down the river. There seems to be some fine timber on the opposite shore about the same distance off.

"The potatoes look well, but the moles are destroying some of them. the ground they occupy may be about 35 yards square.

Saturday 3 [September, 1825]

"Fine pleasant weather.

"The men were differently employed, four preparing the frame for the store, some sawing, some squaring & one carting. there are now fifteen men fit for duty at work I expect as they are now properly set agoing they will get on well, and be able to have the store so far completed that the property can be deposited in it if we can effect a removal from Spokane this fall. This must in a great measure depend on what assistance we can give the Snake people."<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> The little "nick" mentioned by Work is Marcus Flat, near the present town of Marcus. W. S. Lewis, in *Ronald MacDonald, 1824-1894*, says: "The site of Colville contained about five square miles of land."—Page 103, footnote 93, Paul Kane, the artist, wrote the following description of Colville in 1847: "Fort Colville stands in the middle of a small prairie, about one mile and a half wide by about three miles long, surrounded by high hills. This little prairie is extremely valuable for agricultural purposes, as it is, in fact, an island of fertility, surrounded by barren rocks, sandy plains, and arid mountains, to the distance of three or four hundred miles along the river, the Spokan valley to the south being the nearest land fit for cultivation."—Paul Kane, *Wanderings of an Artist Among the Indians of North America* (London, 1859), pp. 306-307.

<sup>22</sup> "Journal of John Work, *Wash. Hist. Quart.*, V, p. 114.



On September 4 Work returned to Spokane House, making the trip from the Kettle Falls in one day. This, according to Work, "was a hard days riding." Three days later he "sent a man & an Indian off to the Kettle Falls with a supply of tools and articles of Trade for Mr. Dears," and on September 15 he "sent a man and an Indian off to the Kettle Falls with some provisions & other articles required for the Express." On the 17th he received from Vancouver, via Walla Walla, a communication from Dr. McLaughlin directing him to "stop the buildings at Kettle Falls till the arrival of the Express from across, because the site pointed out for the Fort is on the South side of the River."<sup>23</sup>

On the following day Work, accompanied by Mr. Kittson, set out from Spokane for Colville and arrived there that night. Work's disappointment at the slow progress being made on the construction is recorded in his *Journal*, under date of September 19, as follows:

"Since I have been here last very little progress has been made in the building. Not a stick of the house is up yet nor will the timber be in readiness for some time, I expected the frame at least would have been up. The causes assigned for this slow progress is principally the want of a proper hand to lay out the work for the men. L. La Bonta it appears is quite unfit for this duty, the whole of the posts (14) were squared too small & others of a proper size had to be taken out of the woods. — J. B. Proveau is now laying out the work and the business is going better on. The timber for the frame is now pretty well advanced in readiness to put together, but only about the  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the filling up pieces are squared. Sawing also has gone on very slowly, only about 93 boards & planks are yet cut—the saw at first was badly sharpened, & some time was lost putting it in proper order. Some of the men were also often sick, or pretended to be so, & unfit for work. Certainly there is little work done for the number of men & times they were employed.

"7 men since the 10th or 12th August and

"9 more men since the 1st inst."<sup>24</sup> [September, 1825].

Before setting out from Colville on his return journey to Spokane, Work gave directions to Dears to keep the men at work for a few days longer in order to get the timber ready for the store which was to be set up in the spring "if another situation does not

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 164-165.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 166.



be fixed upon." He also remarked that "there is no other convenient spot near the fishing at the falls on which to build a fort." In view of the existing situation, however, it became necessary to pass the winter at Spokane House, and within a few days after Work's departure from the Kettle Falls the men were to be recalled from that place to put the Spokane establishment in order for the winter.<sup>25</sup>

Accordingly, on Tuesday, September 27, an Indian was sent from Spokane with some horses to the Kettle Falls bearing instructions to Dears to "get the potatoes put in a pit," and to protect them so that they could be used for seed the following year. Dears was also instructed to store the timber properly, and "come home as soon as possible with the men and all the tools."<sup>26</sup>

On Saturday, October 1, we read in Work's *Journal* that:

"Mr. Dears and the men under his charge arrived from Kettle Falls with all their tools baggage etc. They were sent for in good time as they would have been obliged to come home or have had provisions sent to them as no more could be got there. — He took up the potatoes and put them by in a little house that was built there by one of the men, the produce is only 13 kegs from six that were sowed.<sup>27</sup> they burried & (put) a good thickness of earth over them that the frost may not injure them so that they may serve for seed next year if the Indians do not steal them in the winter. The old chief is directed to take particular care of them. The timber &c is also left under his charge, and he promised to take good care of it as well as the potatoes.

"It would require ten men, 8 or 10 days yet to have the store up and ready for covering the roof. The frames are now all ready for setting up and about the one half of the filling up pieces ready, of the covering planks 18 feet long are ready, plank of ten feet for doors &c and boards of two feet for the gable ends are also ready."<sup>28</sup> Once more Work regretfully goes over the number of men who were employed at the Kettle Falls and adds that "had there been an experienced hand to lay out the work for the men much more would have been done."<sup>29</sup>

Without following closely the activities of Work during the winter of 1825-26, we shall pass to the entry in his *Journal* under date of March 21, 1826, wherein he speaks of the final abandon-

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 167.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 168.

<sup>27</sup> "The first vegetables grown in Stevens county, Washington, by white men."—T. C. Elliott, in *Wash. Hist. Quart.*, V, 169, footnote.

<sup>28</sup> "Journal of John Work," *Wash. Hist. Quart.*, V, 169.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 170.

ment of Spokane House. "The Blacksmith & cook, the only two men we have now here, employed collecting all the iron about the place, stripping hinges off doors &c. The Indians much regret our going off, and frequently complain that they will be pitiful when the whites leave them."<sup>30</sup>

On April 1, 1826, an express arrived at the Forks (the confluence of the Spokane and the Columbia Rivers), . . . "Messrs. McLeod, Ermatinger & Douglas.—They brought 3 pigs & 3 young cows for Fort Colville."<sup>31</sup> Two days later "F Rivit, Old Philip & old Paget & Pierre with a number of women and children & all the horses & the young cows, were sent off to Kettle falls. They have a quantity of seed potatoes with them & tools to commence farming immediately."<sup>32</sup> These persons, declares T. C. Elliott, became the first residents at Fort Colville.<sup>33</sup>

Further confirmation of the fact that by this time Spokane House had been abandoned is found in the journal of David Douglas, the botanist. On April 22, 1826, according to his own narrative, Douglas arrived at the Kettle Falls, which he spoke of as being a "new settlement, called Fort Colville, near the Kettle Falls," ninety miles above the mouth of the Spokane.<sup>34</sup> On May 9 Douglas set out from Kettle Falls "for the abandoned Establishment at Spokan, distant about one hundred and ten miles." His object in making this journey, he states, was to see Mr. Jacques Raphael Finlay, "a Canadian Sauteur, . . . who is possessed of extensive information as to the nature of the country, its animals, vegetable productions, etc." Douglas also took his gun to Finlay to get it repaired, for Finlay apparently was "the only person who could do it within a distance of eight hundred miles."<sup>35</sup>

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 279.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 284. Douglas wrote in his journal that he arrived at this place on April 11.—"Journal and Letters of David Douglas," *Quart. Ore Hist. Soc.*, V, 334. Ranald MacDonald, a son of Archibald McDonald, says of the beginning of the cattle industry at Colville: "On its establishment in 1826, [i.e. Colville] it was at once stocked with three calves and three pigs, . . . From these three calves sprang, I believe, all the cattle—millions, since probably—literally on a 'thousand hills'—from California to Alaska, throughout the 'Sea of Mountains,' with valleys, of utmost fertility, innumerable, now constituting the States of Washington, Montana, Idaho, Eastern part of Oregon and central and eastern British Columbia."—*Ranald MacDonald*, pp. 103-104.

<sup>32</sup> "Journal of John Work," *Wash. Hist. Quart.*, V, 284. On August 5, 1826, Work was at Colville and spoke of the agricultural efforts there as follows: "The potatoes appear pretty well; barley middling. No wheat at all came up, and only few stalks of Indian corn. Green peas but indifferent. The kitchen garden stuff, turnips, cabbages were so and so. The soil appears to be too dry."—*Work's Journal, Ms.*, cited by Bancroft, *Hist. N.W. Coast*, II, 472.

<sup>33</sup> "Journal of John Work," *Wash. Hist. Quart.*, V, 284, footnote.

<sup>34</sup> *Quart. Ore Hist. Soc.*, V, 336-337. In the *Journal Kept by David Douglas During His Travels in North America, 1823-1827*, p. 165, is the following account of Douglas's arrival at the Kettle Falls: "Arrived at the Falls at six in the evening, thoroughly drenched to the skin, and gladly walked over the portage three-quarters of a mile to a small circular plain surrounded by high hills on all sides, where the new establishment is to be."

<sup>35</sup> *Quart. Ore Hist. Soc.*, V, 338; also *Journal Kept by David Douglas During His Travels in North America, 1823-1827*, pp. 169 et seq.

Some idea of the importance of Colville to the Hudson's Bay Company is conveyed to us in a letter written by Joshua Pilcher, an American fur-trader, to J. H. Eaton, secretary of war, following a visit to Colville in September, 1829. Says Pilcher:

"This post is on the main Columbia River, about thirty miles below the mouth of Clark's fork, and on the south side of the river, in latitude 48° 38'. A proprietor of the company, a couple of clerks, and about 25 men are stationary at this post. It consisted, when I saw it, of log houses for the accommodation of the company, and for storehouses for the merchandise and furs. A stockade was begun before I left there. Some swivels, in addition to common firearms, were all the defenses which I saw. About 60 or 70 acres of ground were under cultivation, and the crops were fine and abundant. Wheat, barley, oats, Indian corn, Irish potatoes, peas and garden vegetables of every description, grow well and were equal in the quality and in the product to any in this country. The wheat was ground at the post on hand mills, though a windmill was erecting, and a plentiful supply of flour obtained. Of domestic animals there were cattle, hogs and horses; the post being well supplied with its own bacon, butter, milk, etc.

"The situation of the post is beautiful, being at the foot of the last range of mountains, and at the principal falls on the upper part of the Columbia. Many spots of ground are fit for cultivation, and the climate is healthy and agreeable. This spot, as I have said, is the principal depot for the mountain trade.<sup>36</sup> Its supplies of merchandise are received by way of the Columbia, coming in ships as high up that river as fort Vancouver, and afterwards in batteaux; the distance from the sea being about 600 miles. The merchandise thus brought up to fort Colville is traded partly at that post, and partly distributed to the Flathead post, and another on McGilvray's river, another branch of the Columbia, coming from the south, and falling into the main river about 25 miles above the mouth of Clark's river. The furs collected at all these places are sent down the Columbia in batteaux to fort Vancouver, and thence shipped to England and other places. Besides the furs obtained from these posts, others are got by trapping; for which purpose parties have gone as far south as the Colorado, for

<sup>36</sup> According to the *House of Commons Report on Hudson's Bay Company*, printed in 1857, the following posts were in the Colville district: Fort Colville, Pend d'Oreille River, Flatheads, Kootenais and Okanagan.—Cited by Bancroft, *Hist. N. W. Coast.*, I, 448. Requested to name the posts which constituted the Colville district while he was in charge, (1848-1851), Alexander Caulfield Anderson replied: "Colville, Okanagan, Flatheads and the Kootenais. Colville was the headquarters."—*H. B. Co. vs. the United States*, [iv], p. 35.

six or seven years past.<sup>37</sup> I remained twenty days at fort Colville, received the most kind and hospitable treatment from the gentlemen of the post; and having received from them an offer of the protection of their annual express or packet along the line of their posts and establishments, across the continent to lake Win-nipec, I determined to accept it, and relinquished the intention of going down the Columbia to its mouth."<sup>38</sup>

Somewhat more than three years later another American, Nathaniel J. Wyeth, paid a visit to Colville. In his Memoir to Caleb Cushing, dated February 4, 1839, Wyeth declared that when he "was at this post, its picketed walls were down and repairing; its defenses appeared no other than those commonly used against Indians; a chief trader and about 15 men were then posted at this place."<sup>39</sup>

In this decade, however, we have numerous accounts of Colville, written by missionaries and others who visited the post. Also there are available to us some of the writings of Archibald McDonald,<sup>40</sup> one of the men in charge of Fort Colville in this decade, as well as the story of Ranald MacDonald, a son of Archibald,

37 "From the days of the North-West Company, there were trapping parties always moving about, who explored all over the Flat-head and Snake countries, and also first opened up the land route between Oregon and California."—Deposition of Dugald Mac-tavish, April 10, 1865, in *H. B. Co. vs. the U. S. Evidence for Claimants*, [iv], p. 121.

38 Letter of Joshua Pilchner to J. H. Eaton, secretary of war: *Senate Doc. 39, 21st Sess.*, 21st Cong., pp. 9-10.

39 Memoir of Wyeth to Caleb Cushing, dated Feb. 4, 1839: *House (Supplemental) Report 101, 3d Sess., 25th Cong., Appendix I.*

At the time of Weyth's visit to Colville it appears that Francis Heron was in charge as chief trader. Of this person W. S. Lewis (*Wash. Hist. Quart.*, XI, 29) writes: "He was promoted to chief trader in 1828, and was assigned to and stationed at Fort Colville in 1830. The Minutes of Council for 1830 show that he applied for transfer of furlough for 1831, and that the application was referred to Dr. McLaughlin, Chief Factor of the Columbia District. It was evidently denied. He continued at Colville during 1831 and 1832, and in the latter year attended the Meeting of Council at York Factory and was given charge, from Fort Edmonton to Fort Colville, of the recruits sent out for the Columbia River District, with Annance and Francis Ermatinger as his aids. He left Fort Colville in 1833 for Fort Vancouver and later for Nisqually, where he succeeded Archibald MacDonald, on June 27, 1833."

40 Archibald McDonald was stationed at Fort Colville from 1836 to 1843 [1844?]. He was made a chief trader of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1842. "While at Colville, in the early forties, Archibald McDonald is said to have had many hundred acres under partial cultivation. His son, Benjamin MacDonald, is still living, [1918] states that his father had nearly five thousand acres of land under cultivation at one time in the vicinity of old Fort Colville. Mr. Jacob A. Meyers places the maximum of land in agricultural use by the Hudson's Bay Company in the vicinity of Fort Colville at 2,000 acres, including hay lands some twelve miles distant in the neighborhood of the present town of Colville. The Company also held six townships of pasture lands obtained from the Indians by treaty.

"At Fort Colville, Archibald McDonald superintended the reconstruction of the old sawmill, said to have been originally built in 1826-29, and the first sawmill on the Pacific coast, north of California. The original roof boards of the old fort buildings, of mill sawen lumber and lumber for company boats, bateaux and other purposes came from this mill. Archibald McDonald also superintended the rebuilding of the grist mill on 'Mill Creek' (now Meyers Falls of the Colville River); this mill was thereafter known as the 'Gouldie Mill' from the Fort Colville blacksmith of that name in immediate charge of the work."—William S. Lewis, "Archibald McDonald: Biography and Genealogy," in *Wash. Hist. Quart.*, IX., 96-97. This article is a very satisfactory sketch of the career of McDonald.

whose manuscript was published in 1823 under the editorial supervision of William S. Lewis and Naojiro Murakami.<sup>41</sup>

Archibald McDonald, in a letter dated at Colville January 25, 1837, remarked that the farm at Colville "at present is on an extensive scale." He also appeared to be somewhat elated as he spoke of the "upwards of 5000 bushels of grain" that had been produced—"3000 of wheat, 1000 of corn and more than 1200 of other grain." At the same time, McDonald continued, "your three calves are up to 55 & your 3 Grunters would have swarmed the country if we did not make it a point to keep them down to 150."<sup>42</sup>

The prosperity of Colville also made a strong appeal to the Reverend Samuel Parker, who in his journeys "beyond the Rocky Mountains" in the years 1835, '36 and '37 visited this post.<sup>43</sup>

As the Reverend Elkanah Walker, on September 17, 1838, first beheld Colville from the summit of a very high hill, "looking like a city under a hill," he thought it a most pleasing sight. "It was truly pleasing after being nearly a half year without seeing anything that will bear to be compared with good farming, to see fenced fields, houses and barns grouped together, with large and numerous stacks of hay and grain, with cattle and swine feeding on the plain in large number." He further stated that McDonald that year estimated his wheat crop at 1,500 bushels and his potatoes at 7,000 bushels. About 20 men were at that time employed on the farm.<sup>44</sup>

Regarding the fort itself, Mr. Walker wrote as follows:

<sup>41</sup> William S. Lewis and Naojiro Murakami, *Ronald MacDonald, 1824-1894*. The attention of the reader is especially directed to pp. 102-104. The footnotes are particularly helpful.

<sup>42</sup> *Wash. Hist. Quart.*, 254-255.

<sup>43</sup> *Journal of an Exploring Tour Beyond the Rocky Mountains . . . in the Years 1835, '36, and '37* (Ithaca, N. Y., 1838), pp. 291-292. Parker further says: "This establishment [Colville] is built for defense and is well stocked, but so friendly have the natives always been, that no wars have ever occurred among them. It is occupied by some half dozen men with Indian families, and is well supplied with the useful animals and fowls common to farming establishments. The winter and summer grains, together with garden vegetables, are cultivated with success and in profusion. This place does not suffer with summer drouth, as many other parts of this country do, and rains are of frequent occurrence; the seasons here not being marked, as on the lower parts of the Columbia, by wet and dry."

"As to climate this region [Colville] has the reputation of being more rainy than the country below, but seasons occur when no rain falls. In the summer the temperature varies very considerably in the course of twenty-four hours, but they have kept no meteorological register, at least none was kept at the time of the visit of our party. The temperature in summer (July) rises to 100 degrees and falls to 12 degrees in January and February. The winter commences in November, and ends in March. They frequently have flowers in February."—Wilkes, *U. S. Exploring Exped.*, IV, 445.

<sup>44</sup> *Letters and Diaries of Rev. Elkanah Walker and Mary R. Walker, 1838-1852, Ms.* These letters and diaries were assembled and copied by William S. Lewis, corresponding secretary of the Eastern Washington State Historical Society. There is a copy of the manuscript in the Spokane public library. The quotations reproduced above may be found on pp. 126-129 of the manuscript. Walker describes a dinner he had at Colville as follows: "Had for dinner today [Sept. 18, 1838] boiled buffalo meat, corned tongue, and some fowls, small but very good, sweetened with a dish of soup, which did not taste, crowned with a fine blueberry pie."—*Id.*, p. 128.

"The area of the fort is twice as large as any I have seen this side of the Mts. It is built with sticks of timber set up, supported by braces. In and about the fort are quite a number of dwelling houses, three or four large stables & store-houses for grain. He is well provided with farming tools, carts and sleds, a sleigh and a gig. In the latter he has promised to give me a ride."<sup>45</sup>

Of the establishment at Colville from 1840 to 1846, in which latter year the Oregon Question was supposedly settled by a treaty signed by representatives of Great Britain and the United States on June 15, we have numerous accounts. On the 7th of April, 1841, George T. Allan arrived at Colville from Fort Vancouver. From his journal of that trip the following description of Colville has been extracted:

"Fort Colville is a very neat and compact little establishment, and nothing I have yet seen in the Indian country can equal the beauty of its situation—placed on a rising ground in the midst of a very pretty plain, encircled by an extensive and well cultivated farm, the fields and fences laid out with a neatness which does credit to the taste of their projector—here and there a band of cattle to enliven the prospect, and at a considerable distance surrounded on all sides by high mountains, covered from the base to the summit with beautiful pines. Nor does the inside of the establishment yield in any respect to the exterior, for when seated at table with Mr. and Mrs. McDonald<sup>46</sup> and their family, one cannot help thinking himself once more at home enjoying a *tete-a-tete* in some domestic circle."<sup>47</sup>

Sir George Simpson, who probably gazed upon Colville from the same hill from which Elkanah Walker first beheld it, was no less than Walker impressed by the beauty of the prospect. He

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 128.

<sup>46</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Archibald McDonald. See footnote 40, *supra*. Mrs. Marcus Whitman, wife of the American missionary, held a very high opinion of Mrs. McDonald. In a letter to Mrs. H. K. W. Perkins, dated July 4, 1838, she said: "When I received yours, I was entirely alone. My husband had gone to brother Spalding's to assist him in putting up a house, and soon after we had the privilege of preparing and entertaining Mr. and Mrs. McDonald and family of Colville. They came by the way of brother Spalding's, spent nearly a week with them and then came here. They left here last Thursday, and are still at Walla Walla. Had a very pleasant, agreeable visit with them. Find Mrs. McDonald quite an intelligent woman; speaks English very well, reads and is the principal instructor of their children. She is a correspondent, also, with myself and sister Spalding. She appears more thoughtful upon the subject of religion than any I have met with before, and has some consistent views. What her experimental knowledge is, I am unable to say. It would be a privilege to have her situated near us, so that we could have frequent intercourse; it would, no doubt, be profitable."—*Twenty-First Annual Reunion of the Oregon Pioneer Association for 1893*, p. 111.

<sup>47</sup> George T. Allan, "Journal of a Voyage From Fort Vancouver, Columbia River, to York Factory, Hudson's Bay, 1841," in *Transactions of the Ninth Annual Reunion of the Oregon Pioneer Association for 1881* (Salem: E. M. Waite, 1882), p. 40. Allan came to Vancouver on October 25, 1831. Nearly ten years later he kept the journal from which the quotation given above has been extracted. On October 23, 1841, in a letter dated at Cathlamet, Mr. Allan said: "I have preserved the following journal in order to show our primitive mode of traveling long before steamboats or railroads were heard of in Oregon."—*Id.*, p. 38.



wrote: "On reaching the summit of a hill, we obtained a fine view of the pretty little valley in which Colville is situated. In a prairie of three or four miles in length, with the Columbia River at one end, and a small lake in the center, we descried the now novel scene of a large farm, barns, stables, etc.; fields of wheat under the hand of the reaper, maize, potatoes, etc., etc., and herds of cattle grazing at will beyond the fences . . . . Cattle thrive well, while the crops are abundant. The wheat, which weighs from sixty-three to sixty-five pounds a bushel, yields twenty or thirty returns; maize also flourishes, but does not ripen till the month of September; potatoes, pease, oats, barley, turnips, melons, cucumbers, etc., are plentiful. A grist mill, which is driven by water, is attached to the establishment; and the bread that we ate, was decidedly the best that we had seen in the whole country."<sup>48</sup>

In the year 1841 Lieutenant Johnson, of the *Wilkes United States Exploring Expedition*, spent three days at Colville. His detailed description of that place, even though it may involve some repetition of conditions heretofore mentioned, is worthy of reproduction at this time.

"Fort Colville is situated on the east bank of the Columbia River, just above the Kettle Falls. In this place, the river, pent up by the obstructions below, has formed a lateral channel, which nearly encircles a level tract of land, containing about 200 acres of rich soil. Of this peninsula, about 130 acres are in cultivation, and bear crops, composed chiefly of wheat, barley and potatoes. There are also raised small quantities of oats, Indian corn, and peas, but garden vegetables have never succeeded well. Their failure, however, is to be attributed either to bad seeds or unskillful management; for the soil, which is a rich black loam, mixed with a portion of gravel, seems capable of producing anything.

"The whole peninsula has the appearance of having been deposited by the river, and is believed to be the only spot of that character formed in its whole course.

"There are two entrances to the fort, from one of which a

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<sup>48</sup> Sir George Simpson, *Narrative of a Journey Round the World During the Years 1841 and 1842* (London, 1847), I, 149-151. Simpson has left us the following description of the "good things to eat" at Colville in those years: "Just fancy, at the base of the Rocky Mountains, a roasted turkey, a sucking pig, new bread, fresh butter, eggs, ale, etc.; and then contrast all these dainties with short allowance of pemmican and water." —*Id.*, p. 148.

Apparently the "common run" of people at Colville did not fare so well as this. On this subject Angus McDonald writes: "Excellent beer and some superior whiskey were distilled and furnished for the mess, but the laboring men fared on very simple rations; if simple, they were solid, however, such as flour, salmon, lard or tallow, venison and potatoes; no sugar or coffee or tea until later days; regular rations of such were issued." —"Angus McDonald: A Few Items of the West," in *Wash. Hist. Quart.*, VIII, 198.



road leads to the flour-mill; from the other there is a path extending along the bank of the river.

"Fort Colville, like all the other posts of the Hudson Bay Company, is surrounded by high pickets, with bastions, forming a formidable defensive work against the Indians. Within the pickets all the dwellings and storehouses of the Company are enclosed.

"The peculiar character of the soil renders Colville superior, for the purposes of cultivation, to any spot on the upper waters of the Columbia. . . .

"The cultivation of crops is here the principal object of attention, for the whole of the northern posts depend upon Colville for supplies of provisions. . . .

"The time of planting the spring wheat is in April; the winter grain is sown in October, and succeeds best, particularly if the autumn should be a wet one. The crops of wheat are reaped in August. Indian corn is not a sure or good crop; it is planted in May and gathered in September. Potatoes, beans, and some oats, with two thousand bushels of wheat, are raised annually at this place.

"Of fruits they have those of the country, such as the service-berry, strawberry, wild cherry, and the hawthorn-berry. These ripen from June till September. Imported fruit trees have not as yet succeeded, and it is thought the spring frosts are too frequent and severe for them.

"This post was established in 1825, at which time a bull and two cows were introduced from Vancouver, and from these have sprung 196 head of fine cattle. They have likewise 30 mares with foal, and 60 grown horses. The horses are little used during the winter, and are usually turned out to shift for themselves. Care is, however, taken to keep them in places which are much exposed to the sun, and in consequence least covered with snow. Though represented as hardy animals, it is deemed prudent to get them into good condition before the winter sets in, to enable them to withstand its rigours."<sup>49</sup>

Article III of the Treaty of 1846 guaranteed "the possessory rights of the Hudson's Bay Company, and of all British subjects who may be already in the occupation of land or other property, lawfully acquired," in the territory south of the 49th parallel of north latitude, which line was specified by Article I of this treaty as the future boundary line between British and American posses-

<sup>49</sup> *U. S. Exploring Exped.*, IV, 443 et seq.

sions in the Pacific Northwest. Article IV of this treaty confirmed to the Puget Sound Agricultural Company its farms and other property on the north side of the Columbia River.<sup>50</sup> Years passed, however, before a final settlement was made by the United States with these British companies, and the Hudson's Bay Company continued to occupy its establishment at Fort Colville.

At the time the foregoing treaty was made the following list comprised, according to the records of the Hudson's Bay Company, the improvements at Colville:<sup>51</sup>

Post No. 10—Colville

1 range of stores.....	60 x 25 feet
1 range ditto.....	50 x 21 feet
1 store, unfinished.....	40 x 22 feet
1 dwelling house.....	50 x 24 feet
1 dwelling house.....	24 x 18 feet
1 range of officers' houses.....	60 x 18 feet
1 range of men's ditto.....	50 x 18 feet
1 house, Indian hall.....	16 x 16 feet
1 kitchen .....	27 x 16 feet
1 blacksmith's shop.....	17 x 13 feet
1 carpenter's shop.....	30 x 17 feet
1 meat house & ice cellar.....	20 x 16 feet
1 bake house & oven.....	15 x 15 feet
1 poultry house.....	20 x 13 feet
1 pigeon house.....	9 x 9 feet
1 root house.....	40 x 20 feet
Pigs' houses .....	60 x 15 feet
1 stable .....	17 x 13 feet
1 barn .....	50 x 25 feet
2 byres, each.....	65 x 20 feet
Horse yard, six feet high, solid logs.....	127 x 87 feet
Barn yard .....	81 x 60 feet
Cattle yard .....	84 x 33 feet
1 bastion .....	12 x 12 feet
Stockades, 208 feet square, 14 feet high.	
18 M. fence poles	
340 acres cultivated land.	
One flour mill complete, with one pair of stones and bolting machine.....	30 x 20 feet

<sup>50</sup> Senate Document 476, 1st Sess., 29th Cong., pp. 2-3.

<sup>51</sup> *Hudson's Bay Company vs. the United States. Evidence for Claimants.* [iv], pp. 124-125. In Library of Congress set it is [ii].

Farm at the White Mud

- 1 dwelling house.....16 x 16 feet
- 1 barn .....30 x 20 feet
- 1 stable .....20 x 15 feet
- 1 pig house.....8 x 8 feet
- 2½ M. fence poles
- 30 acres cultivated land.

The settlement of the Oregon Boundary Question, as has already been stated, did not bring to an immediate close the activities of the Hudson's Bay Company in the present state of Washington. Under the guaranty of "possessory rights," the representatives of this company continued to hold Colville, and for several years after 1846 an important trade was carried on up and down the Columbia River. The coming of the Americans in large numbers, however, particularly after the organization of Washington Territory in 1853, brought on a series of Indian wars during the fifties, with the result that some of the interior posts were abandoned by the Hudson's Bay Company, and the Columbia River became less important as a highway for the fur trade. Supplies for Colville came in time to be brought overland from Vancouver Island, and the importance of Fort Vancouver declined.<sup>52</sup>

During the decade of the forties, however, Colville continued to show an active trade. During that period, notwithstanding the fact that Vancouver showed losses during three years, Colville always was able to show a net gain.<sup>53</sup> A statement of the "furs traded at this post" during this decade shows that large numbers

<sup>52</sup> Consult the testimony offered in the case of the *H. B. Co. vs. the U. S.*, especially the testimony by Angus McDonald, *id.*, [iv], pp. 150 *et seq.*, and by Alexander Caulfield Anderson, *id.*, [iv], pp. 35 *et seq.*

Bancroft, *Hist. of Ore.*, I, 38, says of Lewis (or Lewes): "The top of the Columbia district was John Lee Lewes, an old Northwester, who after having been many years at the several northern posts was placed in charge of the district of McKenzie River, and afterward at Fort Colville. He was a man of fine personal appearance, and possessed many good qualities. He had the misfortune to lose his right hand by the accidental discharge of a gun." Father De Smet also spells this name "Lewes." "The kindness of the Honorable Mr. Lewes and family I shall never forget," wrote De Smet from St. Paul's Station, near Colville, May 29, 1846.—Chittenden and Richardson, *Father De Smet's Life and Travels Among the North American Indians*, II, 552.

<sup>53</sup> *H. B. Co. vs. the U. S. Evidence for the U. S. Misc.*, Part III, [iii]. On page 192 of this volume is printed the following table, showing the net gain of the H. B. Co. at Colville and at Vancouver for the years indicated herein:

YEARS	COLVILLE			VANCOUVER		
	Lbs.	s.	d.	Lbs.	s.	d.
1840	2194	14	6	1425	6	11
1841	2470	0	4	816	18	9
1842	2353	7	0	*1213	3	1
1843	2344	7	0	*1005	18	11
1844	2617	4	9	1372	12	5
1845	2707	2	11	*2656	8	4
1846	2712	2	5	1314	4	7
1847	3859	7	2	4445	12	3
1848	2507	18	2	2383	18	9
1849	2103	1	8	5244	2	11
1850	1922	15	2	204	4	4

\*Indicates a loss.

of pelts of the following named animals were bought: badgers, bears, beavers, foxes, lynxes, martins, minks, muskrats, land otters, raccoons and wolves.<sup>54</sup>

A comparison of the value of furs traded at Colville with that of the furs traded at Vancouver during this period will, according to the figures of the Hudson's Bay Company, show the following:<sup>55</sup>

Year	Colville			Vancouver		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1840	3,086	13	0	3,241	0	8
1841	3,342	2	3	3,529	15	9
1842	3,429	8	3	3,198	16	1
1843	3,351	4	2	4,207	9	3
1844	3,751	14	3	3,669	13	0
1845	3,664	12	11	2,781	2	10
1846	3,773	5	7	2,384	7	7
1847	4,480	1	10	1,906	14	4
1848	4,662	15	10	1,105	7	8
1849	3,475	8	11	645	7	10
1850	2,956	6	8	883	19	9

A statement showing the number of employees at Colville in 1846, together with a statement of their wages, is included in the exhibits offered by the Hudson's Bay Company in the case of the *H. B. Co. vs. the United States*. This statement follows:<sup>56</sup>

Number of Employees	Wages per Annum <sup>57</sup>
1.....	£12
6.....	16
7.....	17
1.....	20
5.....	22
2.....	25
2.....	27
3.....	30
1.....	50

Thomas Lowe, a merchant of Victoria, B. C., formerly a clerk in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, gave, on August 5, 1865, his recollection of Fort Colville in 1847 and during

<sup>54</sup> *H. B. Co. vs. the U. S.*, [iii], pp. 193-196.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 197.

<sup>57</sup> In the year 1846 there were stationed at the posts mentioned in the memorial of the H. B. Co. (i.e. the posts south of the 49th parallel) 315 employees, among the number being three chief factors and three chief traders. The chief factors and the chief traders

the years immediately following. "At this post the Hudson's Bay Co. carried on extensive farming operations," he said, "and had a grist mill for the manufacture of flour, with which article they supplied the interior posts in the Districts of New Caledonia and Thompson's River, as also Fort Nez Perces and stations in the Snake Country. It was the center likewise of a large fur trade, including the Flathead Country, Kootenais, and Columbia Lakes. Large numbers of horses and cattle were raised here. It was also at this place that all the boats required for the navigation of the Columbia River were built. It was considered the place next in importance to Fort Vancouver. . . .

"Including the flour mill, I should appraise the value of all the buildings belonging to the establishment as it stood in the spring of 1847, at not less than \$100,000. In 1849, several important additions had been made, especially by the erection of stockades as a further protection against the native tribes who had recently been at war with the American Government. . . .

"The land adjoining the fort I should estimate worth \$20,000."<sup>58</sup>

During the years 1848 to 1851 Alexander Caulfield Anderson, a chief trader of the Hudson's Bay Company, was in charge of Fort Colville.<sup>59</sup> On August 9, 1865, he related many things of in-

were paid from the profits of the Company. Wages paid per annum to the other employes were as follows:

AMOUNT OF WAGES	NUMBER OF MEN PAID
17 pounds	133
27 pounds	71
22 pounds	26
30 pounds	15
16 pounds	14
8 pounds	3 (least)
150 pounds	2 (most)
100 pounds	6

See *H. B. Co. vs. the U. S.*, [iii], p. 197.

"In the year 1846, and previously, the number of officers employed at the different stations west of the Rocky Mountains was between fifty and sixty, and of engaged servants something over 500. Besides these, there were numbers of Indians at the different establishments employed as laborers and voyagers. These men, under proper officers, distributed through the country at the different posts, kept the Indians generally in good order, and prevented them, as I have already mentioned, from attempting to injure the Company's servants when they had them in their power, as the Indians knew, with this force at the disposal of the Company, it would be impossible for them to injure the whites with impunity. The requirements of the business also, and the immense tract of country occupied by the Company, made it necessary to maintain a large staff of officers and men—the management of horses and boats also requiring labour well skilled in such duties, and in great abundance, and for the want of which it would have been impossible to carry on the business at all. With this force at their disposal, also, the Company were prepared to meet any opposition in the fur trade promptly and efficiently, thus giving them the virtual control of the Indians in Oregon, and a monopoly of the trade with them for many years previous to the date of the treaty."—Dugald Mactavish, in *H. B. Co. vs. the U. S.*, [iv], p. 212.

<sup>58</sup> *H. B. Co. vs. the U. S.*, [iv], pp. 14-15.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 33 *et seq.* Anderson, in his deposition, said that he was at Colville first in 1832, again in 1840, and again in the spring and in the autumn of 1842. He further declared that, during the time he was in charge of this post, the district included "Colville, Okanagan, Flatheads and the Kootenais. Colville was the headquarters." Responding to an inquiry as to what was done with the wheat raised at Colville in those years, and the flour that was ground, Anderson replied: "A portion was consumed for the support of the people attached to the different establishments: a portion was supplied to the other districts, and likewise for the general purposes of the Company, in carrying on the transport on the Columbia River."

terest about Colville, some of which are included in the following extract:

"As far as I can recollect, there were about 200 [horses] attached to Colville itself, and about 120 came there occasionally from the different outposts. Previously to my residence there I believe there were more, but there was a very heavy loss in the winter of 1846, and again in the winter of 1848. The deficiencies were made up occasionally by horses purchased from Walla Walla. . . .

"There were myself, chief trader, in charge, six clerks, postmasters and interpreters, and the average complement of men was about thirty. The number of Indians employed was generally about 10; sometimes as many as 50 were employed during the emergencies of harvest, seed time, etc. . . . <sup>60</sup>

"The main trade for exportation was of course in furs; there were other trades which had local applications; I allude particularly to the trade of the Flatheads in 'par-fleches' and 'appichemous'; these are buffalo skins dressed in a particular way for the purposes of horse transport, and were indispensable to the operations of the Company, for the purpose of carrying on their transport from Okanagan to the more northerly posts. Large quantities of dried meat and tallow were also traded, required for the provisioning of the different parties by whom the transport was carried on. The returns from the different outposts were brought in in the spring. The outposts then received supplies of provisions and goods, for the purposes of the summer trade; their parties again returned in the autumn in time to meet the full brigade from the maritime depot; they then returned to their different posts with the outfit for the winter trade."<sup>61</sup>

(To be continued.)

<sup>60</sup> Lieutenant Henry J. Warre, 14th Regiment, and Lieutenant M. Vavasour, Royal Engineers, reported on Colville in 1845 as follows: "The soil of the surrounding country is sandy and unproductive, but the irrigation afforded by the constant overflowing of the river enables the Hudson's Bay Co. to raise about one thousand bushels of wheat annually in its vicinity. They have also about 100 head of cattle and 300 or 400 horses attached to this post."—"Report of Lieuts. Warre and Vavasour, Dated 26 October, 1845. Directed to 'The Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies.' Received July 6, 1846": in *Quart. Ore Hist. Soc.*, X, 42. In this same report are given the following statistics on Colville: Number of men, 30; acres of land under cultivation, 118; number of horses, 350; number of cattle, 96; number of hogs, 73.—*Id.*, p. 60. In a subsequent report, dated March 1, 1846, Lieut. Vavasour wrote: "Fort Colville is similar in construction to those on the east side of the Rocky Mountains, surrounded by a picket fence of 60 yards wide and having one blockhouse or tower. At the time of my visit [Aug. 16-19, 1845] the pickets were nearly all blown down. It is on the left bank of the Columbia River, on a rising ground, on a sandy plain surrounded by sand hills, 400 yards from the river bank at the head of an impassable rapid called the Chaudiere Falls, around which it is necessary to carry the boats, baggage, etc., making what is usually termed a portage. This portage is usually made on the left bank but there is no reason why the right should not be equally available."—*Wash. Hist. Quart.*, III, 145.

<sup>61</sup> *H. B. Co. vs. the U. S.*, [iv], p. 35.