

The following account is particularly interesting because it gives a picture of the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation in September of 1856. The first Indians had been moved onto the Reservation in late summer and fall of 1855. The blockhouse had been built by the U.S. Army soon after and army post had been established at the Reservation in March of 1856. The article comes from the September 29, 1856 issue of the Pacific Christian Advocate. Mr. Pearne was the editor of the paper. The account was unsigned.

A TRIP TO TILLAMOOK

Mr. Pearne: Having just returned from a pleasure trip to Tillamook County, I thought I would give a sketch of what I saw.

Our route was through the Grand Rpnde now occupied by Indians and known as the Reservation. The distance from Salem to this point is about 30 miles. On arriving at the Reserve, we found it necessary to get a pass from the officers having command of the post. Capt. Smith who has had charge of Fort Lane in Rogue valley and who has been in many skirmishes with those Indians during the late difficulties in that quarter has command at this place. The Captain has a "rough and ready" appearance and I should suppose he is well calculated for so responsible a position. All the officers appear to be gentlemen. I believe there are two companies, one of Infantry and one of Dragoons. There is a fine blockhouse erected and several other buildings in progress of erection for the comfort and convenience of officers and men. The Fort is on high ground and beautifully situated. The valley seems to be "land-locked"--being surrounded by high hills and mountains. There are several streams running through on the banks of which the Indians camp. There are about 3,500 Indians in all on the reservation. They are scattered about, each tribe by itself, and appear contented and happy. I believe all the tribes from the Columbia River to the Siskiyou Mountains west of the Cascades with the exception of the Tillamook tribe are located upon the Reserve. There are some stragglers and perhaps portions of tribes who have not as yet been brought in. Proceeding through the valley some two miles, we arrived at the Agency--the headquarters of the Indian Dept. Here we met Capt. Hedges, supt., Mr. Raymond, sub-agent, and Dr. Henry who has charge of the hospital. They all treated us in a hospitable manner and gave us all the information they could in regard to the route over the mountains.

(to be continued)

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