

California Supp. Hb 659

Thos. J. Hornley

San Fran. Aug 28. 1854

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The copy corresponded  
with Sub agent - W. H  
Hornley. respecting the Young  
Wives of Indians - their destitute  
state

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Recd - 28 Sept 1854

~~Sept 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 1854.~~  
Sept to Secretary of the  
Interior Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 1854,  
28 - Oct

Office, Indian Affairs  
San Feo. Cal. Aug. 28/54

Geo. W. Manypenny, Esq.  
Comr. of Indian Affairs  
Washington  
D. C.

Sir:

Enclosed herewith,  
Copies of Letters relative to the busi-  
ness appertaining to this Superinten-  
dency: One from W. A. Harvey, Esq.  
and my reply - I am

Very respectfully  
Yours obedt. Servt.  
Thos. J. Hendley,  
Supt.

(A Copy)

Fort Yuma Colorado River  
July 15<sup>th</sup> 1854

Col. Thomas Henley  
My Dear Sir

I learned a few days ago that Lieut. Beale has been removed from the Superintendancy of Indian Affairs in this State, and that you have been appointed in his place.

If such be the case I request of you that I may be continued in my present situation as Sub Indian Agent of this the Yuma Tribe living on this River. I have undergone much fatigue and hardship in travelling among them up and down this River ascertaining their number, condition, habits and a suitable place for a reservation. I had commenced a report for Lieut. Beale but as I suppose he has been removed I will not finish it until I hear from you. I have selected a place for a reservation, I was ordered to do so by Beale, he also ordered me to have it surveyed. I have selected a place between the junction of the Gila and Colorado. It is in New Mexico.

The Indians in this region ~~live~~ live by cultivating the soil. We have on this like all other

Rivers in California an annual Freshet or overflow, which depends upon the quantity of snow that has fallen in the Mountains. After the water passes off from the low or overflowed lands they then plant, the ground retaining a sufficient moisture to mature their crops.

Unfortunately there will be no freshet this season and as the Indians cannot plant they will be in a starving condition. They will if something is not done for them commit depredations on the stock of the immigration as they pass by on their way to Upper California.

This in all probability would produce a war. I would advise that some two or three hundred Beef Cattle be issued to them. Humanity and policy both demand it. I can by cutting a ditch or Saker, on the place that I have selected irrigate from five to ten thousand acres of land, and as soon as the first crop could be gathered, from that time they would cease to be one dollars expense. The reservation should be surveyed immediately, this Country is attracting considerable attention, the people will soon begin to take up pre-emption claims.

Will you write me immediately and let me know if I am to be retained. If I shall have the reservation surveyed, If I shall contract for the Beef, I have been offered

Beef Cattle to be delivered on this River for  
forty-five dollars per head. Should I be con-  
tinued I want to commence collecting the  
Indians on the Reservation immediately. Should  
you order me to proceed I will then make out  
and send to you such a bill for Seeds Tools  
and other things as may be required. It will  
not take a very heavy outlay to get everything  
in fine condition if properly managed

I remain Yours Col with  
great respect

(signed)

Walter H. Harvey

P. S. You will please write by Adams & Co's  
Express San Diego, to the care of Maj. McKinstry

Los Angeles, Cal. July 30<sup>th</sup> '54

Maj. W. A. Harvey  
Fort Yuma,  
Cal.

Sir:

I am in receipt of your favour of the 15<sup>th</sup> Inst.

In reply I have to inform you, that the appropriation of the Indian Superintendency for the last year is expended, and that for the present year has not yet passed Congress - at least I am not advised of its passage. I can, therefore, make no arrangement for any further expenditure of money, until I know the amount appropriated, which I cannot ascertain in time to do anything in favor of the Yuma this fall.

I regret to hear of the probability of suffering among the Indians in that quarter the ensuing winter; but hope you may be enabled to induce them to some extent at least - to avert the pending calamity by a resort to industry and economy in husbanding with the resources which are at their command.

It will be well to tell the Indians there, what is but the plain truth, that, while the Government is anxious to relieve them, and will in another year be able to provide them with the means to sustain themselves by their own labor, yet - at this time it is improper to afford them any assistance; and that whatever is done for them hereafter will depend upon their good conduct.

You will proceed to carry out the Instructions of Mr Peale, except - as to surveying the Reservation, which need not be done. You will be careful also not to incur any expense whatever, except your own personal expense. You will send me your estimate for seeds, tools &c. for the reservation, and I will supply you in the best manner the Appropriation will admit of. The Report you allude to as having been prepared for Mr Peale, you will please forward immediately to San Francisco, Cal. addressed to me.

It is my wish that you will remain in your present position so long as the services of any one may be needed in that quarter -

(Signed) Yours &c.  
Thos. J. Peuley  
Supt. of Indian Affairs.