

MsSC 128

William Charles Painter Papers

BIOGRAPHY

William C. Painter was born on April 18, 1830, in St. Genevieve, Missouri, to Philip Painter and Jean McDowall Painter. In 1850, the Painter Family began a westward trek to Oregon that cost the lives of Philip and two of the family's sons. The mother and remaining children continued the journey and eventually secured Donation Land Claims in Washington County, Oregon, where William resided until 1863. In Oregon, Painter attended Tualatin Academy (later Pacific University) in Forest Grove. Enlisting as a volunteer with Company D of the First Oregon Mounted Patrol, Painter fought in the Indian Wars of 1855-56 and later, in a battle against the Bannock and Piute Indians in 1878.

In civilian life, Painter held a number of positions which included a mining stint in Montana, a clerk job with a wholesale firm, postmaster of Wallula, Washington Territory, Deputy Sheriff of Wallula, and carpenter. In 1867, he was appointed Deputy Internal Revenue Collector of the Washington Territory. Painter held other government posts, including Receiver of the U.S. Land Office and served four terms as County Auditor of Walla Walla County. After his work as Auditor, Painter spent his last years farming wheat on "Eureka Flat", a region forty miles north of Walla Walla.

Painter married Caroline Mitchell in 1864 and their union produced 11 children. Painter died on December 4, 1900.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Papers of W.C. Painter include certificates, a contract, correspondence, deeds, a diary, invitations, legal documents, military records, mortgage records, newspaper clippings, a publication, receipts, research notes, and tax receipts that cover the years 1846 to 1962.

The correspondence constitutes about half of the collection and covers the years 1849 to 1962, with the bulk of the letters dating from 1869 to 1905. The subjects addressed in the correspondence include the Painter's removal as Deputy Territorial Revenue Collector, Painter's application for Receiver of U.S. Land Office, the Civil War, the Spanish American War in the Philippines, Philippine culture and landscape, poetry, and religion.

Correspondents include: Hazard Stevens, General O.O. Howard, U.S. Senator Watson Squire, Major John Kress, Lizzie Flanders, O. Jacobs, Elisha Ferry, and T.R. Cornelius.

Family correspondents: Israel Mitchell (father-in-law), Roy Painter (son), Marguerite Painter (daughter), Charles Painter (son), John Mitchell, (brother-in-law), Emily Swan (niece), and Alberta Swan (niece).

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1846-1962

RESTRICTIONS: None

VOLUME: 1.2 linear feet

ACCESSION NO. 1966.69.1

FILE LISTING

BOX 1: Certificates, Correspondence.

Biographical Information.

1. Certificates: Misc. Certificates, Honors, and Memberships. 1880-1924
2. Contract: G.W. Hunt and W.C. Painter. 1888 (Contract with G.W. Hunt to build a railroad through Painter's Eureka Flat Property)
3. Correspondence: 1849. September 22. Almira Fisk to Israel Mitchell. (Family matters)
4. Correspondence: 1852. January 8. Israel Mitchell to son John. (Family matters, agriculture in Oregon)
5. Correspondence: 1853. January 18. Unidentified to Israel Mitchell. (Family matters)
October 20. Emily Swan to (Uncle) Israel Mitchell. (Family matters)
6. Correspondence: 1854. December 17. Emily Swan to (Uncle) Israel Mitchell. (Family matters)
7. Correspondence: 1857. September 1. L.B. Mitchell to Cousin. (Corrupt Democratic party in Tennessee, conflict between Democrats and Republicans nationally)
8. Correspondence: 1858. March 19. Israel Mitchell to son. (Family matters, lumber mills)
August 14. Emily Swan to Israel Mitchell. (Emily's marriage)
9. Correspondence: 1859. September 11. Emily Swan to (Uncle) Israel Mitchell. (Birth of Emily's daughter, Alberta May)
10. Correspondence: 1860. May 31. Israel Mitchell to son. (Family matters)

- October 4. Carrie Painter to Lizzie Flanders. (Family matters)
October 9. Emily Swan to Israel Mitchell. (John's accident, presidential campaign of 1860)
11. Correspondence: 1861. March 10. Israel Mitchell to son John. (Fear of a civil war, rail connections to Portland)
12. Correspondence: 1863. June 15. Israel Mitchell to son John. (Civil war, Union Leagues in Oregon)
13. Correspondence: 1864. August 28. Israel Mitchell to son. (Mining in Idaho)
September 12. Israel Mitchell to Andrew Swan. (Death of Emily Swan)
14. Correspondence: 1866. February 22. Andrew Swan to brother John. (Family matters)
May 15. John Swan to (Uncle) John Mitchell. (Rent from Willie's property)
15. Correspondence: 1867. May 2. Israel Mitchell to son John. (Death of John's son Morton)
November 21. Lizzie Flanders to W.C. Painter. (Death of Lizzie Flanders' daughter of scarlet fever)
16. Correspondence: 1868. November 23. Israel Mitchell to son John. (1868 Election in Oregon)
17. Correspondence: 1869. May 16. Hazard Stevens to W.C. Painter. (Election support and contribution)
November 4. Alvin Flanders to W.C. Painter. (The division of Walla Walla County)
November 7. Hazard Stevens to W.C. Painter. (Death of Philip Painter)
November 7. Alvin Flanders to W.C. Painter. (Death of Philip Painter)
November 14. M.L. Stevens to W.C. Painter. (Death of Philip Painter)
18. Correspondence: 1870. November 23. Hazard Stevens to W.C. Painter. (Stevens' removal from office)
19. Correspondence: 1871. April 2. Israel Mitchell to son John. (W.C. Painter's removal as Deputy Territorial Revenue Collector)
June 15. Hazard Stevens to W.C. Painter. (Thanks to Painter and vow to never seek another office)
July 22. Hazard Stevens to W.C. Painter. (Painter's bond as Deputy Collector)
September 4. Israel Mitchell to son. (Israel's religious views)
November 15. Israel Mitchell to son. (Laws of nature, Western U.S. geography)
November 15. Israel Mitchell to (son-in-law) W.C. Painter. (Family matters)

20. Correspondence: 1872. January 1. Israel Mitchell to son John. (Theories on geography/geology)
March 4. Israel Mitchell to son John. (Steamship trip on Puget Sound)
21. Correspondence: 1873. September 1. Israel Mitchell to W.C. Painter. (Family matters)
22. Correspondence: 1874. February 8. Hazard Stevens to W.C. Painter. (Purchase of land in Seattle and Tacoma areas-coordinates and map sketched in the letter)
23. Correspondence: 1875. January 11. Alberta Chilton to (Uncle) John Mitchell. (Loneliness)
July 13. Alberta Chilton to John Mitchell. (Letter writing, school)
August 21. Alberta Chilton to John Mitchell. (Poetry-clipping of poem included)
September 17. Alberta Chilton to John Mitchell. (Poetry, family matters)
24. Correspondence: 1876. January 13. Alberta Chilton to John Mitchell. (Alberta's inflammatory rheumatism)
February 26. Hazard Stevens to W.C. Painter. (A federal post for Painter in the Washington Territory)
April 12. Alvin Flanders to W.C. Painter. (Painter's appt.)
August 19. Alberta Chilton to John Mitchell. (Alberta's health and desire to attend school)
25. Correspondence: 1877. February 3. Senator John H. Mitchell to W.C. Painter. (Appointments to Postmaster and Registrar of land office)
February 5. Alberta Chilton to John Mitchell.
April 2. O. Jacobs to W.C. Painter. (Postmaster appt.)
July 26. Alberta Chilton to John Mitchell. (Family matters)
November 30. H.H. Myers to unidentified recipient. (Death of Myers' daughter)
26. Correspondence: 1878. January 16. Hazard Stevens to W.C. Painter. (Hazard's law practice in Boston)
February 4. Alberta Chilton to John Mitchell. (Alberta's neuralgia)
March 20. Alberta Chilton to John Mitchell. (Alberta's neuralgia)
July 8. John Mitchell to brother and sister. (Family matters)
July 16. Joseph Keeney (?) to (Captain) W.C. Painter (During Bannock War, bacon and flour sent to Painter's forces-while other supplies scarce)
August 17. John Mitchell to D.J. Schnebly. (Removal of Painter from position)

- August 17. John Mitchell to W.C. Painter. (Painter's removal from his post)
- August 27. Alberta Chilton to John Mitchell. (Family matters)
- December 11. O. Jacobs to W.C. Painter. (Painter's former position)
27. Correspondence: 1879. June 17. Alberta Chilton to John Mitchell. (Family matters)
- September 28. Alberta Chilton to John Mitchell. (Willie's property in Nashville)
- October 15. John O. Jones to F.D. Schnebly. (Petition for permanent protection against Indians)
- December 28. Thomas Bryan to W.C. Painter. (Family matters)
28. Correspondence: 1880. January 4. Alberta Chilton to John Mitchell. (Christmas)
- July 12. D.F. Percival to W.C. Painter. (Governor Ferry)
- July 14. L.P. Berry to W.C. Painter. (J.B. Allen and convention)
- September 9. N.H. Owings to W.C. Painter. (John Allen)
29. Correspondence: 1883. October 11. Unknown to mother. (Describes visit to Pennsylvania-incomplete letter)
30. Correspondence: 1885. August 7. Lizzie Roote to W.C. Painter. (Family matters)
31. Correspondence: 1891. June 20. John Mitchell to son John Jr. (An introduction to friend W.C. Painter)
32. Correspondence: 1892. February 9. Elisha Ferry to W.C. Painter. (Mr. Allen and his appointment as Circuit Judge)
33. Correspondence: 1894. February 22. F.D. Schnebly to W.C. Painter. (Grandfather's estate)
34. Correspondence: 1896. January 14. U.S. Senator Watson Squire to W.C. Painter. (Maintaining a military post in Wash.)
- June 11. Multnomah Camp-Indian War Veterans to W.C. Painter. (Grand encampment-IWV meeting)
35. Correspondence: 1897. February 5. Senator Watson Squire to W.C. Painter. (Squire's re-election)
- February 17 to March 27, 35 letters sent to U.S. Senator John Wilson expressing support for W.C. Painter's application for Receiver of U.S. Land Office in Walla Walla. Correspondents include: Wellington Clarke, Justice T.J. Anders, and Thomas Brents.
36. Correspondence: 1897. April 15. Major John Kress to W.C. Painter. (Painter's service in the Indian Wars, lack of a printed account of a particular battle in one of those wars-3 typewritten copies of the letter)
- April 15. General O.O. Howard to W.C. Painter. (Major Kress)

April 23-December 1, 18 more letters of support sent to John Wilson. Hazard Stevens among correspondents.

May 5. O.O. Howard to W.C. Painter. (Permission to cite Howard as a reference)

November 29. T.R. Cornelius to W.C. Painter. (Attendance at function honoring Marcus Whitman)

37. Correspondence: 1898. June 18. Unidentified writer to Mr. and Mrs. Painter. (Military training base in Wash. State-incomplete letter)
- October 15. Roy Painter to mother. (With troops before departure to Manila)
- October 22. Charles Painter to mother. (Describes conditions in Manila as part of troop force)
- October 23. Roy Painter to mother. (On board vessel bound for Manila)
- October 25. Roy Painter to mother. (Arrival in Hawaii with troops on way to Manila)
- November 22. Roy Painter to mother. (Arrival in Manila, describes Manila and American presence there)
- November 26. Charles Painter to Marguerite and Jean Painter. (Describes Manila cultural and geographical landscape, fellow soldiers)
- December 22. Roy Painter to mother. (Manila, Christmas)
38. Correspondence: 1899. February. Roy Painter to brother. (Brutality of American occupation of Manila described-orders to shoot suspicious-acting Filipinos)
- February 2, 8. Roy Painter to sister. (Describes battle)
- February 28. Roy Painter to sister. (Battles in and around Manila)
39. Correspondence: 1900. February 26. Hazard Stevens to W.C. Painter. (Hazard's proposed book about his father Isaac-asking Painter for help with subscriptions. Pamphlet about book enclosed)
- June 15. Hazard Stevens to W.C. Painter. (Hazard's book about his father)
40. Correspondence: 1901. January 10. Lizzie Flanders to Mrs. Painter. (Death of W.C. Painter)
41. Correspondence: 1904. May 23. U.S. War Dept. to Roy Painter. (Appointment for service in the Philippines)
- June 28. Levi Ankeny to U.S. Director General of Posts. (Reference letter for Roy Painter for a new position in the postal service of the Philippines)
- August 6. Roy Painter to mother. (Trip to Japan)

- August 22. Roy Painter to mother. (Ship broke down on way back to Manila from Hong Kong-postcard)
42. Correspondence: 1905. February 15. Roy Painter to mother. (Family matters)
February 20. Roy Painter to mother. (Sending and receiving gifts by mail)
March 15. Roy Painter to mother. (Manila, bad mail service)
June 19. Roy Painter to mother. (Rainy season, family matters)
August 28. Roy Painter to mother. (Eye problems, disease)
October 18. Roy Painter to mother. (Cholera quarantine, Filipino natives)
December 7. Roy Painter to mother. (American offices being consolidated and jobs cut)

BOX 2: Correspondence, Deeds, Diary, Ephemera, Invitations to Parties and Weddings, Legal Documents, Military Records, Misc., Mortgage Records, Newspaper Clippings, Publication, Receipts, Research Notes, and Tax Receipts.

1. Correspondence: 1912-14.
1912, November 22. C.J. Skiles to Mrs. W.C. Painter. (Weather-postcard)
1913, June 2. Marguerite to unidentified. (Vacation in London)
August 12. Unknown writer to Marguerite Painter. (Returning to Ellensburg from France-postcard)
1914, February 16. Mrs. A.J. Gillis to Marguerite Painter. (Walla Walla Art Club)
March 3. mother to Charles Painter. (Birth of new baby)
March 11. John Woods (Principal of Lincoln School) to School Board of Directors. (Recommendation for Marguerite Painter's teaching work)
2. Correspondence: 1920-24.
1920, October 16. Charles Painter to mother. (Charles' vacation in Colorado)
1923, November 27. Northwest Hay Association to Joe Gerrard. (The attendance of Herbert Gall at the annual meeting of the NW Hay Assoc.)
1924, March 26. Liberta to (Aunt) Carrie Painter. (Family matters-genealogical ties to Benedict Arnold)
3. Correspondence: 1933-62.
1933, November 8. Angie Burt Bowden to Mrs. (Marguerite) Painter. (Request for information on early schools in Walla Walla)
1942, April 30. Annie Pauly Brae to Gene. (High School Reunion)

1962, November 10. Mildred Garriott Anderson to Ed. (Genealogical research on Painters)

4. Correspondence: Undated. E.G. Flanders to unidentified recipient. (Family matters)
Undated. Charles Painter to unidentified recipient. (Fragment of letter sent by Painter while traveling in New Orleans)
Undated. O. Jacobs to W.C. Painter.
Undated. Alberta Chilton to (Uncle) John Mitchell.
Undated. Alberta Chilton to (Uncle) John Mitchell. (Poetry)
Undated. Alberta Chilton to (Uncle) John Mitchell. (Alberta's home in Manchester)
Undated. Israel Mitchell to Son and Grandson. (A long, incomplete sermon-like statement concerning the true Christian path and vision)
Following letters sent by Roy in the military service in Manila. Most likely in 1904-5.
Undated. Roy Painter to Mother. (Taft's visit to Manila)
Undated. Roy Painter to Mother. (Troop discharges from Manila, 4th July parade)
Undated. Roy Painter to Mother. (Theft of money from servant)
Undated. Roy Painter to Mother. (4th July in Manila, conviction of Senator Mitchell of land fraud)
Undated. Roy Painter to Mother. (Local festivals in Manila- "Virgin of Antipolo" in parade)
Undated. Roy Painter to Mother. (Attempt at resignation)
5. Deeds: Properties Recorded in Washington Territory. 1865-85
6. Deeds: Properties Recorded in Washington State. 1890-1905
7. Deeds: Properties Recorded in Oregon and Other States. 1846-1880
8. Diary: Journal of the Indian War of 1855-56. (Original and transcript)
9. Ephemera. Misc.
10. Invitations to Parties and Weddings. 1854-1914
11. Legal Documents: Misc.
12. Military Records: W.C. Painter, 1855-1897 (Indian Wars of 1855-56, Bannock War of 1878-includes Indian War Veterans of the North Pacific Coast materials)
Roy Painter, 1899-1921 (Spanish-American War)
13. Misc.
14. Mortgage Records: 1893-1907
15. Newspaper Clippings: Indian Wars of 1855-56, 1878. 1878-1899
16. Newspaper Clippings: Marguerite Painter (Gall). 1902-38
17. Newspaper Clippings: Marriage Notices and Obituaries.
18. Newspaper Clippings: Misc.
19. Newspaper Clippings: Other Painter/Mitchell Family Members. 1913-39
20. Newspaper Clippings: Spanish-American War. 1899-1929
21. Newspaper Clippings: W.C. Painter. 1878-1900

22. Publication: *The Washington Historical Quarterly*. January 1924. (The article, "Journals of the Indian War of 1855-56.", excerpts passages from W.C. Painter's 1855-56 war diary, as well as the journal kept during the conflict by his brother, Robert Moore Painter.)
23. Receipts: Misc. 1877-1924
24. Research Notes: History of Walla Walla. Undated (Notes taken for an address given at the Washington State Normal School, newspaper clipping about event enclosed)
25. Tax Receipts: 1852-1931.

BOX 3: Book.

Book: *Campaigning In the Philippines*. Karl Irving Faust. 1899

(A chapter on the First Washington Regiment)

(One oversized certificate honoring W.C. Painter as a Private in the Oregon Mounted Volunteers in the Yakima Indian War. Housed in EPH-B)