

4-15-1896

Minthorn Letters

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4/15/96 to 4/5/13

Document No. 1

Folder No. 251

T-4-
143/96
4-15

Muscatine, Iowa,

April 15, 1896.

IND SCOPE

H

Rev. Sheldon Jackson,

General Agent of Education for Alaska.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of April 10th received. In case you do not stop at Metlakatla as you go north and you should stop at Cocks Inlet on your return, I wish you would let me know when you will be there if you can and I will try to be there at the same time.

Respectfully,

H. J. MINTHORN.

Original not located. Only
copy in files.

(Stamped as follows)

Metlakantla
Feb. 19, 1898
Alaska.

H

Mr. Wm. Duncan,

Dear friend.

Your letter written at Portland recd. We are having a hard storm of snow and wind. The snow has been two feet deep since you left but nearly all went off--and now more is coming. Some of the people have come home and others have left. Those who went to Wrangell to get work were successful and have sent for other. But those who went to Skagaway are quite dissatisfied and want to get away.

Canneries
Stores

There has been an effort made to get hands here to run the Yess Bay Cannery work to begin April 1st at two dollars per day and six months work given. Business seems to be good in the store. John sold more than one hundred dollars worth yesterday. If you should not get back in time to run the cannery and most of the people should get good wages, as it seems probable now, I think this will be an extra year for the store.

Nearly half of the apples that I had when you left are sold now. None of the other stores seem to be doing anything. We have moved the P. O. into the store and Thomas is learning to run it. Charley's wife died--she bursted a blood vessel--was buried in her wedding clothes. Aleck (the man who brought the measles to town) was capsized between Skagaway and Juneau at night but was picked up after being in the water two hours. He says he feels cold yet.

Peter Johnson returned from Skagaway with \$100.00, having been over the Skagaway trail and down as far as Lake Tagish (?) and back over the Dyea (?) trail. He sold his little dogs for \$50.00. Four men and their wives are here from Ft. Simpson. Peter Simpson is here from Sitka but is going back.

Fisheries

Jeremy and Adam Gordon are both away with Halibut fishers. Henry Ridley got over thirty string (?) Salmon and some others more. If I had not planned to go away as I did I would stay longer as my business at home is about to get into better shape. I have had an offer to go to Dawson by way of St. Michaels to start in April and the parties agree to look after my place while I am gone. We hope to hear from you often.

Your friend,

(Signed) H. J. Minthorn.

Wrangel, Alaska. Apr. 16, 1898

H

Mr. Wm. Duncan,
Metlakahtla, Alaska.

Dear friend:

Canneries that you would run the Cannery if enough people would be there
to do the work. Everything has collapsed here since word came
that the R. R. would not be built so the people will have to
go home. I have done no good with my salmon or fruit and
my partner in Oregon has broken up and I have lost all I had
invested in the apples there. Thomas has sent me the P.O.
reports but has left out the account of cancellations for
Jan. so I cannot make them up -- It takes so long to hear from
there that I think I will come down with some of the people and
if you do not want me there I will go on home from there.

Your friend,

(Signed) H. J. Minthorn

(Copied from a letter in Dr. Minthorn's handwriting--CRS)

Wrangle, Alaska. Apr. 18, 1898.

H

Mr. Wm. Duncan.

Dear friend

Fisheries

I find I cannot sell the salmon & Jams and Jellies here and as Henry Ridley is going back soon with his sloop I will send it back and get some one there to sell it. I sold the shingles for \$4.00 per M. and the apples for \$2.00 per box -- perhaps you will let John sell the things in the store and apply the proceeds on what I owe you after paying Henry for taking _____ (?) down and paying Mr. Young \$12.50 that I owe him.

Debt

The bal. of what I owe you I will send as soon as I can after I get home or will ship you some fruit on it. Or, if you want me there longer will let it go on salary. Mrs. Minthorn is getting along all right with her work on the farm and I do not need to go home on that account if you want me there or I will go home and come back after July first and bring them with me.



Education

Schools

If I was to go back to your place I would have to make some arrangements for the children to go to school. Would you be willing for us to bring a young lady teacher and have school in the large room in the girls building and take in some of the larger girls and charge them enough to help pay the teacher--also could I go on with the P.O. and fruit store as before and perhaps a small bath house.

Your friend,

(Signed) H. J. Minthorn

I am going to leave here after the first of May and will try to get the Rosalie or Farralon to go in there and will see you then and will stay if you want me to. The children are in a good school now but will be out July first.

Med. & Surg.

I am doing some practice here but as there are more than twenty Drs. there is not much for each one. The people from your place that are here are all behaving themselves and take an active part in the church services of all kinds. Most of them have had more or less work but I think most of them intend to go home next month. Some have undertaken contracts for mill logs and piles and cannot go now.

Church

Saw-mill

Saw-mill

Hot Lake Oregon 2, 17 1901

H

Mr Wm Duncan
Portland Oregon

Dear Sir I was surprised to receive a letter from you and was not expecting any more money so that was a surprise too. I often think of your work and wonder how you are and how you are getting along. I thought of writing Mr Wallace when I heard that he had come home and ask him about things but I never seemed to have time. This is a very busy place. I will send you our (this part torn off) circular which gives you an idea of the place we have two or three thousand different people here in a year I think it will be a very popular health resort but there ought to be twenty-five thousand dollars expended on it in buildings &c to accommodate all that come.

Railroad
Some railroad men are talking of buying us out and putting a large amount into buildings. They will be here next week. I would like to know all about your school, Church, cannery store mill and the people and how your Dr. does &c but am sure you are too busy to write. I heard some way that David Lisk was dead and that Fred Riddleys wife was dead. We brought a few things from Metlakahtla that the people made such as baskets &c but the people coming here have besieged us for them until none are left.

I believe a depot for the sale of such things in Portland would dispose of a great many. Gertrude teaches school at Newberg & Mary is here with us. She has not been well for the past year. Mrs Minthorn is not very well. My mother is here with us.

Your friend

H. J. Minthorn

P.S. Mrs Minthorn & Mary join me in wishing that you would take time to come and make us a visit of two or three weeks.

Your friend

H.J.M.

(Copied from a document in handwriting of Dr. Minthorn.-- McD.)

Document No. 6
Folder No. 251

61
2-18

Hot Lake, Ore. 2-18-1901.

H

Mr. Wm. Duncan.

Dear friend:

*Mr. Duncan's
Prop. sub. trip
to Washington*

I have seen from the paper that you are going to Washington and as you said in your letter that you had written I thought perhaps you was (were) waiting for an answer and might then go. If you go we want you to stop off here either going or coming by all means as it is right on your way.

Your friend,

(Signed) H. J. Minthorn

(Copied from a letter in Mr. Minthorn's handwriting--CRS)

Hot Lake, Oregon

2-25-1901.

Mr. Wm. Duncan,
Portland, Oregon.

H

Dear Sir:

Yours containing the copy of your letter on Indian affairs of Alaska recd. I am going to see if I can do something in some way about it. I tried about a year ago to get a school for the Kake Indians, just a little plain home school where the children could get the rudiments of an English education at home among their own people but it failed.

Indian Schools

I may be wrong but I think Dr. Jackson defeated it. He was opposed to the Friends Church locating there in the first place and although there is a Govt. school House there yet he would never let them have a school. I think you will remember that a young man named Edwards went there to conduct a school and was killed by some whiskey smugglers.

Church

Dr. Jackson proposed to him to join the Presbyterian Church when he first went there but his being killed and then succeeded by Mr. Moon put an end to that and also it seems (also) put an end to Dr. Jackson's interest in the place. We have some prospect of selling out here and if we do I think I will try again to get the school there.]

A man named Edwards was here yesterday to visit Mr. Cook. He had learned some way of your being in Portland and I think is going to call on you. He is quite a schemer and I think wants something but I do not know what it is.

Your friend,

(Signed) H. J. Minthorn.

Document No. 8

Folder No. 251

02

7-24

Newport, Oregon. Aug. 24, 1902.

H

Wm. Duncan

Metlakahtla, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

Yours of Aug. 15 recd. yesterday. We
will come on the Farralon leaving Seattle Sep.
10th. I think probably it would be as well to
have wooden tubs and save freight.

We can, as you say, see about that later.
I have packed what medicine I have and will ship it soon.

Respectfully,

(Signed) H. J. Minthorn

(Copied from a letter in Mr. Minthorn's handwriting--CRS)

Newberg, Oregon.

Jan. 16, 1904.

H

Mr. Wm. Duncan,

Metlakantla, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

My children are about through school now and I am thinking of trying to get back into the Indian Department.

Endorsement

Would you kindly write me such an endorsement as you feel like making, stating the length of time I was at your place and anything you can say about my fitness for filling the place of Indian Agent or Physician or Supt. of an Indian School. Address it to the President and send it to me and greatly oblige.

Education

We are all well. The children are going to school and I am practicing here.

Your friend

(Signed) H. J. Minthorn.

Newberg, Oregon.

(Copied from a letter in Mr. Minthorn's handwriting--CRS)

Newport, Oregon 7-13-04

H

Mr. Wm. Duncan,
Metlakatla, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

Yours of late date recd. -- I will come any time you want me and stay as long as you want me and do the best I can -- There are several considerations I would like to make but will not let any of them stand in the way of coming--

Education

But there is one thing that it seems to me I must do and that is to keep Mary in school two years longer. During that two years Mrs. Minthorn would have to stay at Newberg with Mary at least one half of the time and Gertrude and I would have to get along there the best we could without Mrs. Minthorn and Mary.

After Mary was through school we would make our homes there as long as you wanted us to stay. We have a little property at Newberg and here at Newport which we would sell as soon as we could or rent it while we were away. I might want to come home for a few weeks to look after that sometime but probably Mrs. Minthorn could _____ (?) as well as I could so far as that is concerned.

Salaries

The salary you offer me is satisfactory--although it is not so much as I make at home, yet we can live on it & help the girls to get through with their education. Gertrude is willing to begin on the \$200 as you say and hopes she will do well enough to justify more when the time comes. _____ (?) be satisfied with the other arrangements would like to use as much of the furniture that is there as we can to save expense.

Lighting Plant

I think it would be better to employ the Ketchikan men to put in the lighting plant since they are so near. I enclose you one of our little circulars showing the business we are in here. It only occupies three months of the year, July, Aug. & Sept. but I can leave Sept. 1st if you want me there.

I have about fifty dollars worth of medicine that I might bring and save ordering. I have the bills.

Your friend,

(Signed) H. J. Minthorn.

P. S.

Please tell us what to bring.
H. J. M.

HEMPHREY, Ore. Aug. 5, 1904.

H

Mr. W. Dumas,
Metlakshila,
Alaska.

Dear sir:

*the idea
was that
they should
not feel
that they
are getting
nothing*

I have been very busy but find a little leisure now. I thought I would ask you if you had thought any more about having the people be at a part of the expense of having a Dr. by getting them to undertake to pay a certain sum per week or month or so much for a visit or so much for the medicine or some such plan, also about the Hospital how would it do to have a bathing department -- something as we do here, and have them pay something for the baths -- Also you mentioned something about having a cow or cows and a horse. If you thought of doing so, I would bring some grass seed and vetch seed and tare seed and some rye, etc., to plant this fall to make some preparation for stock in the future. I can bring two bath tubs also if you think best. We will be ready to come in September. What steamer had we better come on?

Your friend,

(signed) H. J. MINTEORN

P. S. When I went before you wanted me to see Mr. Strong. Do you want me to see him now.

T. S.

DR. H. J. MINICORE
DR. GERTRUDE MINICORE
Newport, Oregon.

July 5, 1918.

Rev. Wm. Duncan,
Metlakatla,
Alaska.

H

My dear friend:

Your letter of Jan. 27, came to hand today, and as you will see from the enclosed envelope it was mailed in Portland yesterday. We were all very glad to hear from you and especially that you were in good health. We have not been able to hear from Metlakatla much lately but we often think of you. We are all well and the girls are both at home but Gertrude is going to London and Dublin and perhaps Mainz to take a Post Graduate course. She will leave here about September 1st and if she knew the addresses of some of your friends she would enjoy calling on them. We have understood that you have been in Portland at different times since we saw you, and we would have been very much pleased if you could have found time to have given us a call, and hope you will do so if you are in Oregon again. We live at Newport, about 160 miles from Portland on the Coast in Lincoln County. I hope the people at Metlakatla are well and prosperous. I would enjoy visiting you but when one remains long in a place I guess they kind of take root and it is hard to get away. I have been here now for thirteen years and the only times I have been away were when I was at your place and one other time for about one month. We have not seen Wallaces or any one from your place since Gertrude and I left there. Gertrude graduated at the Med. Dept. of the Iowa State University and was in a hospital in Philadelphia for one year. Mary is teaching.

From your sincere friend,

(Signed) H. J. MINICORE

Met. Mar 1st, 1915.

We the working men & residents of Met--under this petition you will find our names asking you to operate cannery and sawmill as usually

Canneries
Sawmill

Moses A. Hewson
Daniel Reece
Sam Campbell
Matthew Verney
Albert Dundas
Chester Murchison
Alonzo Booth
James Howard
Andrew Williams
Roderick Murchison, Sen.
Soloman Dundas
Alfred Dundas
George Hall
Benjamin Dundas
Thomas Hanbury
Alex F. Guthrie
Herbert J. Murchison
Ralph Smith
Alfred Baines
John Buxton
Hebert Reece
Robert Alford
George Campbell
Chas. W. Campbell
Joe Baines
Hebe Reece
Philip A. Nelson

Matthew Fawcett
Abram Nelson
Joseph Verney
Everett Hudson
Am. E. Baines
Matthew Simpson
Mathias Simpson
Moses Baines
David Lisk (Leask ?)
Arthur Marsden
Ben Simpson
Joe Simpson
Paul J. Matthews
Roderick A. Murchison
Joseph Fawcett
Robert Pattison
Luke Marsden
Edward Fawcett
Elizabeth (?) Fawcett
John Hudson
Harold Hudson
Harry Campbell
Jonah Guthrie
William Alford
Joshua A. Dobson



(On reverse side appears following)

No. 9

Copy of petition from Metlakatla people to Mr. Duncan showing that they were not in accord with Dr. Claxton's program.

(Copied from a document in Mr. Minthorn's handwriting--GRS)

7 - R E 48 on mail

Newport, Ore. (In printing)

H

Duncan Alaska Mar. 24 1915

Rev. Wm. Duncan Met.

Com. Education has wired me as follows, quote--
writing.
"Am wiring you and Duncan fully regarding industries
until letters are recd. instruct Duncan & Council nothing
to be done regarding industries until letters recd. You
are requested to comply with these instructions"

Industries

(Signed) Beattie

(Above corrections are as written)

(On reverse side and in different colored ink is following)

No 8.

Showing that the missionary was compelled to stop the
industries no letter was ever sent so they are still
stopped although traps are allowed to operate for other
canneries.

Fish Traps
Canneries

(Name of city illegible)

Sawtelle, California 4-9-1915

H

Mr. Mr. Duncan,
Metlakatla Alaska.

Dear friend:

I had a spell of neurasthenia last winter supposed to be from overwork and came down here March first--I have regained my health but fear that a return to my former work may cause a relapse. I wonder whether you would care to have me come up to Metlakatla for six months or a year on the former terms or whatever way you wish.

Your friend,

(Signed) H. J. Minthorn

(P.S.)

I will return home in a few days so my address will be Newport, Oregon.

(Copied from a letter in Mr. Minthorn's handwriting--CRS)

Document No. 4
Folder No. 252.

15
4-23

Newport, Ore. Apr. 23, 1915.

H

Mr. Wm. Duncan,
Metlakantla, Alaska.

Dear Friend:

I arrived home yesterday and found your letter here. I will have to take a few days to arrange my business affairs and cannot tell just how long it will take. I will write again in a few days. Mrs. Minthorn thinks she cannot come until about Sep. but may conclude to come sooner. She has some rooms that she rents during the summer.

Return to
Metlakantla

Your friend,

(Signed) H. J. Minthorn.

(Copied from a letter in Mr. Minthorn's handwriting--CRS)

Document No. 5
Folder No. 252.

15
4-26

Newport, Ore. 4-26-1915.

H

Mr. Wm. Duncan

Metlakantla, Alaska.

Dear Friend:

I think I will start for your place some day
next week to remain six months or one year or longer
as may seem to be best.

Return to
Metlakantla

Your friend,

(Signed) H. J. Minthorn

(P.S.)

Will wire you in time for you to meet me at
Ketchikan if necessary.

(Copied from a letter in Mr. Minthorn's handwriting--CRS)

H

May 17, 1915.

Charges
Made against
Duncan
Canneries
Sawmill
Wharf
Water Supply

May 17-15 charges made against Mr. Duncan to council
has betrayed the people in claiming cannery saw mill wharf
water system & town public buildings ways (?) &c as his
private property not interested in our progress & is
entirely selfish Tells us to go to Hell & we are devils &c
and teaches the young to disrespect Govt. & dishonor flag
no man has ever succeeded in getting him to change We want
him removed from our leadership and association

Signed Adolphus Calvert X

and witnessed by Edmund Verney

B. A. Haldane

John Davis

Edmund Verney

B. A. Haldane

Dr. Minthorn

(Copied from a page in handwriting--preceding pages
missing--CRS)

Ketchikan, Alaska, July 15, 1915.

Mr. Wm. Duncan,
Metlakatla, Alaska.

Dear Friend:

No steamer has arrived going south yet. I have seen Doctors Myers. Dr. John is talking of going to Seattle to locate. He says he will see you before he goes. I have heard that the Secretary is not coming to Alaska but that Claxton is at Bellingham (where Jones lives) and that he is coming to Alaska, and that Beattie will be reinstated and Jones will be returned to Metlakatla, and that they are going to force a division of the property. Just what is meant by that expression I do not know. I hear nothing but condemnation of their course here. The more I think over the situation the more I am convinced that your determination to have nothing to say to them unless and until they give you your day in court--that is, furnish you with copies of all statements made to them, with the names of the parties making them, and allow you to meet them and call witnesses and produce evidence in refutation--is the proper course. In fact, it seems as though it is the only course. I do not understand why you should be placed in such a trying position and be so unjustly and cruelly treated, but I have no doubt but that all things will work together for good in the end, and that you and your friends will, as I believe, be divinely led step by step as things develop and be enabled to do the right and best and wisest thing, and that the wrath and also the foolishness of man will be made to praise the Lord.

I found Mr. Strong a very nice gentleman and not only a very good friend of yours but exceedingly well informed about the situation at Metlakatla and determined to do all in his power to help you. I think Mr. Strong, Mr. Everest, and two, at least, of the Doctors Myers will make it a point to see Mr. Claxton before he goes to Metlakatla and try to get him to take a little look at the other side of the case and of course it will have some effect. I have explained to these gentlemen that the Government was now in possession of all they needed or could or would ever use; viz, the building site, the water, and the use of the wharf. I told them that although you had never given them any right to them, yet as they had taken them I thought your intention was not to take any action against them but to leave the matter as it now stands, with them using the water and wharf, etc., but that I thought that under the circumstances you would not undertake to make any repairs needed on the wharf or water pipe.

I think from what I have learned that they will probably oppose your having a school and they may object to Professor Taylor being there at all, though I do not know certainly that they will do this. I think in case they order you and Professor Taylor to refrain from conducting a school and yet do not (and I think they will not) object to his remaining as your assistant, it would be the proper thing for you to have him come and let him live in the Guest house, where he would be farther from them, and say nothing more about re-

Division of property

Praises Mr. Strong

Bldgs at Metlakatla

Guest house

-2-

Education Taylor (or whoever you get) go to work industriously to learn the language and to assist in the church and Sunday-school work, and such other work as you have that you have and want such a person to do. Also I think you should have a doctor anyway for ten months in the year. I think I would like to come back, but I think if I did I ought to have \$1,000.00 for ten months and go home for the two months when the people were away and have the same arrangement about board as I had, except I would want a small coaloil lamp stove in the room to furnish heat, and I would expect you to furnish the medicine which I think would not exceed \$50.00 or \$60.00 per year. The reason I mention these details is that I found that I could do better for the sick to have them to come to your house where you could talk for them and explain to them about the treatment.

Now, I do not know as you would want me, but you ought to have some doctor and I think the arrangement would be better than the way we used to have it. But I do not think Mr. Jones, Beattie, etc., would ever be satisfied for me to come back there after criticizing them as I have done, so it is rather more than likely that you will have to get someone else, but there are two months yet in which to decide. I think either I or Mr. Strong should ascertain whether Professor Taylor or whoever comes will come with the understanding that it is with the intention of learning the language and staying on. I think I will get off some time today as two steamers are scheduled to go today, the "Alki" and the "Mariposa". I have my baggage at the "Alki" wharf but will go on the one that comes first, as I am tired of sitting around here.

Your friend,

H. J. Minthorn. 7

Portland, Oregon. July 20 1915.

Mr. Wm. Duncan,
Metlakatla, Alaska.

H

Dear Sir:

I arrived here last night and saw Mr. Strong this morning. Also I saw Mr. Lopp and Mr. Claxton, the Comm. of Education in Seattle and talked with them. I thought Mr. Lopp seemed to be disposed to be reasonable.

Criticisms
of
Claxton

But if you want to know what I thought of Mr. Claxton just refer to what the young lady stenographer said about him when she sent you the report of the findings of the court in the trial of the libel case. I agree with her in the opinion she expressed.

I think he does not care for what is best for the people or you but only to have his own way which in this case I think will work injustice to both you and the people & result only in harm but he has authority back of him and it will only make matters worse to oppose him.

The thing you had better do is to take what he leaves you and go somewhere else with it. There will never be any satisfaction for you there while Mr. Claxton has authority. But if they will let you it would be better for you to have one year to effect the change.

Buildings at
Metlakatla

I think they will take most of the buildings & eventually will take all of them and all of the fixtures, that is everything that is attached to the buildings which will include the mill and cannery machinery--but not the tin and other personal property in the cannery or the logs at the mill or stock in the store &c &c.

If they take the buildings &c as they will it would be a fair share of the property for the people they are standing in with. What is left I think if I was in your place I would take to the new location if you decide to locate anew or turn it over to seven people selected by Mr. Strong to be used in whatever way they decided best for the people as you have arranged in your will and leave there for the present.

I think the people will soon tire of the new way which is a novelty to them now and like children they are, or think they are, pleased with it, and more than likely they will want you back after you are gone for one year. If you can you might have some young man come & learn the language and help you to get your things together and with the help of the seven trustees turn it into cash and add it to what cash you have and await developments.

Salem, Oregon. July 20, 1915.

H

Mr. Wm. Duncan,
Metlakatla, Alaska.

Dear Friend:

Enclosed find clipping from Portland Evening
Telegram--the meaning of which is that it conveys the
impression that Mr. Claxton seems to think the U. S. Flag
had at times not stood for the right things or in other
words that the North was in the wrong during the Civil
War. No doubt this will get Mr. Claxton out of his job
for nearly all of the people in the United States think
it is best to forget our past differences and try to be
a united people and it is generally considered that it
is a sign of a small narrow mind when a person cannot
do so and that (that) kind of a man is not the right kind
of a person to be Com. of Education. Be patient with him
and trust in the Lord to deliver you in his own good time
& way as He has so often done.

Your friend

(Signed) H. J. Minthorn

(P.S.:

Please show this to Moses.

Flag of the US

Criticizes
Claxton

Document No. 10

Folder No. 252

15

7-21

H

Newport, Ore., July 21, 1915.

Mr. Wm. Duncan,
Metlakatla, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed find a clipping from the Oregonian. I think
Dr. Claxton will not last longer than this term. He is getting paid
in his own coin. His chickens are coming home to roost. I hope
you are well. It is quite cold here at night but hot in the daytime.

Your friend,

H. J. Minthorn.

Newspaper
Clippings
Claxton