



3-9-1897

## Letter to W. P. Hunnicutt (#1)

Sheldon Jackson

Department of the Interior,  
Bureau of Education,  
ALASKA DIVISION.

Washington, D. C., March 9, 1897.

Mr. W. P. Hunnicutt,  
Whittier, California.

My dear Sir:

Yours of March 1st is received. With regard to your inquiries concerning the establishment of a mission station at Kotzebue Sound, I would state that a suitable man and his wife, with your daughter and Miss Morris as assistants, would be a sufficient force for the establishment of that station. The vessel that landed your stores and building material probably would not be able to stay very long, but you can send a carpenter with the missionary force who can be landed by the vessel transporting the freight and party and left at the station; you can then arrange with the U. S. Treasury Department to send the Revenue Cutter "Bear" a little later in the season to pick up and bring the carpenter away so that he could have probably a month at the place for the construction of the necessary buildings and the making of the missionaries comfortable. There will be no trouble with regard to clothing the missionaries properly, for the winter climate. When they get up there they will buy reindeer skins and the <sup>native</sup> women can be employed in making traveling garments for making them comfortable during the

winter. Such garments worn by the missionaries are much cheaper than ready made clothing that are sold in our stores. The native people will bring the mission drift-wood at a price not exceeding two or three dollars a cord. This will be paid for of course not in money but in provisions. If there were a few days' work left the buildings when the Cutter arrived the captain probably would drop anchor and send his own carpenters and some of the crew ashore to help the missionaries; that has been done by the Captain of the Cutter on several occasions. It is not necessary that it should be a government building.

I regret to say that I will not be able to come by the way of California on my way this spring to Alaska, but if necessary I can visit your people--if life is spared--next October on my return from Alaska.

I send you some reports. If you can get your Congressman to secure you a copy of the Report of the Cruise of the Revenue Steamer "Corwin" during the year 1884-85m it will give you a full account of the region of Kotzebue Sound, especially the cruise of 1885. If you fail to get a copy through your Congressman (they are very scarce) if you will authorize me to do so, I can purchase you a copy at a second-hand book store in Washington.

If you will write to Henry R. Wood, Shipping & Commission Merchant, No. 8 Steuart Street, San Francisco, you can probably get a cheap rate for your freight, supplies and missionaries. He

is under contract with the Government to carry freight to Bering Sea at \$10 a ton, and passengers at \$75 a head. It would be well for you and your friends to make up your minds at once as if your freight for a building and supplies for a family are to go up Mr. Wood ought to know it at once as it will require him to charter a larger vessel than he would have. The freight that the Government will send by him will nearly fill the sized vessel that he is now expecting to charter.

If there are any questions that you may wish to ask do not hesitate to write me and I will very gladly give you such answers as I can to anything that I have knowledge of for that region.

The Smiths Cash Store, San Francisco, have secured the contract for furnishing supplies for the Government stations of that region, being the lowest bidder, and they will supply you at the same rates that they have bid for the Government.

Wishing you great success in this undertaking I remain,

Respectfully yours,

*Sheldon Jackson*