

Fort Colville W T  
Oct 11 1845

John A. Scurry  
Indian Agent

Sir

I received your note of yesterday demanding the release of an Indian named "Alexander" on the ground that the arrest was made on the "Colville Indian Reserve."

I am not aware that you as Indian Agent have ever exercised any authority or jurisdiction whatever over the territory you now claim as a Reserve. Except in the instance of collecting postage for stock of a British Subject. No Agent, Officer or employee of the In Dept has ever resided upon the so called Reserve, no Indian has ever been placed upon it, and nothing whatever has ever been done by yourself or any subordinate officer within the limits of the territory in question.

The Sheriff of this County has always arrested and collected Taxes of the white residents thereon, civil process has always been issued and served, a Justice of the Peace of Stevens County there resides and exercises the functions of his office, and the settlers there living and

and entitled to the right of suffrage  
held their polls and voted for County  
and Territorial Officers at the Election  
of November 1874.

Until an Agent or other  
Officer of the Ind Dept can be found  
somewhere within the region West of the  
Columbia and that region shall be  
devoted to some one of the uses and purp-  
-oses of a Reserve, I shall hold that  
the mere setting of that portion of Stevens  
County aside in 1872 by Executive Order,  
does not withdraw it from the jurisdiction  
of the Territorial laws, and that I as  
Sheriff of the County, have a legal  
right to serve any process or warrant  
properly placed in my hands on any  
party white or Indian who may be  
found upon that Territory.

Very Respectfully  
John H. Hoptetter  
Sheriff Stevens Co W.T.