

Chief Palchina (Palchino)
In the Pacific Northwest by 1820
Chalk Courchane



19. Chief Palchina, Flathead warrior, hero of a great 1840 victory, killed in 1863 fighting the Bannocks. His brother was killed while a member of the ill-fated third delegation to seek Blackrobes in 1837. *Source:* Smithsonian Institution.

Often called Pelchimo by historian I stay with Palchina.

"Chief Palchino, Flathead warrior, hero of a great 1840 victory, killed in 1863 fighting the Bannocks. His brother was killed while a member of the ill-fated third delegation to seek Blackrobes in 1837. Gustavus Sohon drew his portrait on May 12, 1854.

"The modern Flathead remember him by both his Indian name and by the name "Palchina." They could not translate his Indian name exactly, because it is an obsolete form, referring to a blanket with some black on it. "In the Name of the Salish & Kootenai Nation - The 1855 Hell Gate Treaty and the Origin of the Flathead Indian Reservation, edited by Robert Bigart and Clarence Woodcock, Salish & Kootenai College Press, 1996, page 90-92.

Palchina was a brother of one of the Indians of the ill-fated third deputation (1837), the members of which were killed by the Sioux while en route to St. Louis to seek a priest. (Chittenden and Richardson, 1905, vol. I, p. 292; Palladino, 1894.. 30.)

Palchina was one of the heroes in the battle with the Blackfoot in 1840, in which Ambrose also distinguished himself. In this battle the Flathead, through greatly outnumbered, withstood their opponents for 5 days and finally forced them to retreat, leaving many killed and wounded on the battlefield. The Flathead lost but a single man, who died of wounds received in the battle.

Pelchimo won honors in this fight by saving the Flathead horses from capture by the enemy. (Chittenden and Richardson, 1905, vol. I, pp. 319-320.)

Pelchimo as a great friend of Major Owen. Owen frequently referred to him as "Palchina" in his journals. In 1851 he accompanied Owen to Fort Loring on Snake River. They traveled together to The Dalles in the spring of 1855, and to Fort Benton in the summer of 1858. (Owen, 1927, vol. I, (pp. 28-35.)

Owen considered Palchina the best veterinary in the region, and employed him to doctor his own favorite horses. He also had Pelchimo break his horses and permitted him to use the horses during the summer buffalo hunt in return for "getting them gentle." (Ibid., pp. 127-128.)

As "Palchinah" he signed the Blackfoot Treaty in the fall of 1855. His name does not appear among the signers of the Flathead Treaty.

Gustavus Sohon wrote in 1854:

Koilt-koi-imp-ty (Indian name)

Spoken of by Father De Smet as "Pelchimo". (by which name he is generally known), as a good and brave Indian. He is a great favorite of all the whites who know him, for his honesty and good sense.

On April 4, 1863, Owen received a report that 70 horses had been stolen from Palchina's camp while en route from from the buffalo hunt on the plains. Two days later he was informed that Palchina had been killed by the party of Bannock horse thieves from whom Palchina sought to recover his stolen property. On hearing of Palchina's death, Owen paid high tribute to the man's character as one of the best Indians, brave when danger called, inoffensive but firm and exacting in his rights. (Ibid., pp. 278-279.)

The written record appears to emphasize Palchina's prowess in the traditional men's occupations of the Flathead. He was a courageous fighter, a clever hunter, and a skilled trainer of horses. His talents as a horse doctor must have given him considerable prestige as a medicine man among the conservative members of his tribe. He was not mentioned by the missionaries among the Flathead leaders who remained staunchly loyal to their cause after the closure of St. Mary's Mission in 1850. Nevertheless, Sohon's testimony as to his good character is confirmed by the writings of Father De Smet and Major Owen."

Daughter Mary Ann married Gabriel "Gabe" /Lumpry/ son of Joseph Lumpry (Lampre or Lompre) and Mary Cooquecoye:

They had at least four children:

1. Agate Lumpry born in 1874 and baptized April 7, 1864 and died July 3, 1874 in St. Ignatius Mission
2. Charles Gabe Lumpry born July 1, 1869
He married three times:

Louise LaFontaine daughter of Peter Martin (aka John) LaFontaine and Caroline Catherine Boisvert

Adelaide Adolph daughter of Eneas Adolph and Mary Moiese Eneas Adolph was son of Chief Adolph.

Therese Selew (she lived to be 104) She also married John Ashley and Augustus Selew.

3. Mary Lumpry born December 27, 1870 and died August 31, 1874 at St. Mary's Mission
4. Louis Lumpry born March 22, 1873

Here are all the entries by Major John Owen in his 17 journals... I will add other entries from Thomas Harris, Lt. John Mullan, etc. as I find them.

THE JOURNALS AND LETTERS OF MAJOR JOHN OWEN Pioneer of the Northwest 1850-1871
EMBRACING HIS PURCHASE OF ST. MARYS MISSION; THE BUILDING OF FORT OWEN; HIS TRAVELS; HIS RELATION WITH THE INDIANS; HIS WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT; AND HIS ACTIVITIES AS A WESTERN EMPIRE BUILDER FOR TWENTY YEARS Transcribed and Edited from the ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS IN THE MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE COLLECTION OF W. R. COE, ESQ. BY SEYMOUR DUNBAR: AND WITH NOTES TO OWEN'S TEXTS BY PAUL C. PHILLIPS
Professor of History in the University of Montana WITH TWO MAPS AND THIRTY PLATES IN TWO VOLUMES-VOLUME ONE NEW YORK EDWARD EBERSTADT 1927 page 28

On his trip in April 1851 from Fort Owen to Walla Walla, Major Owens wrote in the Hell Gate Defile: "Raised Camp and moved about 20 miles campd on H. G. fork in a small bottom Grass good 1 Sheep 1 Duck and 20 fine Salmon trout brought into camp quite a heavy rain during the night - Palchana a Flat head with his Lodge joined us."

[54] Friday 25" Raised camp this morning tolerably Early it being a fine Morning - after travelling some 2 miles we crossd the stream we Encampd on last night on account of one of my animals getting swampd in the stream with one of my Lodges on I was detained until the Main camp must have travld some 5 miles when coming up with camp I found there was a complete split 4 lodges taking a right hand trail for some reason My guide did not agree as to the road the others wanted to take and I found he had kept the left hand trail" leading over on to a fork of B. H. fork calld Beaverhead crk. It leaves me now with my own too Lodges and an Ind with his Lodge. Our party is small for the country we are in but the guide tells me that after tomorrow we will pass the Black foot range when we will be entirely out of danger We are nicely cached in timber on the B. H. and could not very easily be discovd unless we are watchd and followed, traved in all today about 20 miles Wood plenty grass better than last camp

[56] Saturday 26" Raised camp this morning as usual. Crossd B. H. some 1/2 mile from camp We have been travelling over rolling hill nearly all day crossed several small Streams all of which empty into B. H. We are Encampd on one of these streams. B. H. is quite large and current swift Saw plenty of game today but no necessity of hunting as we have nearly a pack animal loaded with fresh meat traveld today about 15 miles- Grass good Wood rather scarce 2After getting into the Big Hole country there were trails leading to all the passes of the Rockies. The right hand trail cut across to the west of the Beaverhead, while Owen went directly to this

stream and then followed up its course until he struck across to one of the passes over the Rocky Mountains.

[57] Sunday 27 Raised camp the morning being clear quite early thinking we would cross the divide & reach Snake river Valley - Palchana & one of my men Started in advance of Main camp with the cattle. Lamoose went on ahead to hunt- We had not moved far with camp when the guide discovd a man riding toward us at full speed - When close enough to recognise Lamoose we were afraid all was not right had the two men in advance been cut off by Black feet or what was the matter - I told the guide we would gallop & meet him and put an end to our disagreeable suspense We soon met When he spoke in Flathead - Sulthun sl [?]- understanding some of the language I knew what was out. Palchana had seen two Buff, on the ridge to our left and was waiting for us to come up with the band when he could catch his Buff, horse and go in pursuit of them we pushed on fast and some two miles brought us to him the Buff were still plain to be seen with a glass feeding & moving slowly over the ridge. I told the guide I would go and take a part in the chase and if I had a Buff horse to catch him & have him Saddled for me as the horse I was riding would not approach Buff, he Soon had me a fresh horse caught which Lamoose knew the Inds had been in the habit of running Buf with. I took Lamoose with me and an Ind Boy to lead a pack horse to carry the Meat into camp. We were confident we would get them Palchana lead his Buff horse also his Brother in law an Ind we call Edwards. It took some time to get off all the time the Buff, were moving from us and were probably at this time some 3 miles off. I told the guide to take the camp on a short piece and camp at the first good camp'g place. Off we went Edwards leading I was armed with a pair of Colts large revolvers. Palchana a Bow & quiver full of arrows Eds a Rifle & Belt Pistol. Lamoose with a Rifle. We gallopd slowly along so as to keep our horses in as good spirit as possible when we came up with the Buff. We soon saw them We had passed to far to the right we stopd to talk about the best mode to approach it was soon settled Palchana & Eds were soon on their Buff horses without saddles. I took off my holsters & Bear skin Saddle cover. gave Edwds one of my revolvers & carried the other and away we went at full speed. Lamoose in the lead. We soon ascended a small slope when Lamoose dismounted & fired and gave word for advance & run I did not take part at first being much delighted in seeing these Inds riding fearlessly & gracefully to after the Buff, the Buff took a turn and as they passed me I discharged one load at the one nearest to me he was a 3 year old Bull the other was a cow down hill we went as hard as horses could run crossd a ravine at a bound the Buff, soon lost ground in ascending the opposite slope. Palchana dismounted quick as thought and fired at the cow. neither of the shots as yet had any apparent affect- they reached the summit of the slope and separated I kept after the Bull with Edwds while Palchana & Lamoose followed the cow My horse being accustomed to the chase ran beautifully along side the Buff, his tongue out full length. I on one side Edwds on the other. I fired some 3 more shots - being so close Every Ball Entered 2 of my caps would not explode. I called to Edwds to give me my other pistol he said - qua na which means directly. he fired one shot & not Knowing how to manage the weapon he gave it to me. When I discharged some three more loads into the body of the Buff immediately behind the fore shoulder he was failing fast in a few moments he came to a dead halt made a few staggering bounds towards us and fell dead Without a Struggle. Well we dismounted to butcher our meat supposing by this time the cow must be Killd also when we saw Palchana leading the pack animal towards us. he soon told us the cow had got away from him but that Lamoose & the Ind Boy had gone on after her. We Butchd & smoked a pipe packed our Meat and put off for the camp. After riding some 8 miles we came up & found the guide had campd & that Lamoose had

come in & changed his horse & gone again in pursuit of the cow. he however has come in failing to find her again in the mountains We crossd a horse trail today about three days old supposed to be Bannac ["The Bannocks were a branch of the Snake Indians. They lived in the upper valleys of the Beaverhead and across the Rocky Mountains in the Lemhi Valley. They hunted buffalo in the Missouri River country and were enemies of the Blackfeet. The Blackfeet, like the Crows, were proud of their skill as horse thieves. Stuart, opus citra, v. 1, pp. 127, 155.] a Black foot trail discovd & crossd also- My guide says it was a party of about ten he thinks the[y] are lurking on the Bannac trail to steal their horses. I was in hopes that the camp today would have put us beyond danger but making a short camp on account of the hunt we had to tie all our animals again tonight - I suppose the camp has made ten Miles today*- We are campd on a small fork of B. H. grass good the ground passed over today has been bottom land with a rid[g]e on each side of us 185 m.

Monday 28 This morning we raised camp Early to endeavor to Make as long a march as to possible to gain what we lost yesterday We followed the small stream we were campd on up some 6 miles through a canyon which was rough and rocky We crossed a ridge over into a prairie which we crossd over to the dividing ridge between the Mo. & Columbia waters. about center of the Prairie we came to quite a considerable stream without a particle of wood on it this we found high and in one place only was fordable -and that by unpacking the animals and carrying the Bales &c over on the Mens backs they riding on horseback this detaind us probably one hour- When over and all packd again we came to the foot of the Divide probably some 3 miles from the Stream we crossd the ridge & found plenty of snow on the top and in the hollows When upon the Summit [The normal route of the traders was up to Lemhi Pass and to the Lemhi River. Owen may have chosen another pass to the south, and then have ridden southwest to a point near the Salmon River Mountains.] we came in full view of the Snake River Valley - which we were all delighted to see once more. I was riding in advance of the camp with the guide and the Ind Palchana - the latter was filling a pipe which we were going to smoke when Lamoose my hunter cried out in flat head to the guide and Ind Kricune -which Means whip your horse go fast he came up at full speed said he saw something pass around the point of a ridge a good piece ahead - as he came up & was about to pass I inquired of him what it was he had seen he said he did not know but thought it was Indians - away he went & I followed but a short distance & Palchana came up - on we then rode Lamoose in the lead we road some 3 miles over rolling ridges and small piece of bottom land. Lamoose however had gained the top of a ridge ahead of us when he suddenly turned his horse about and cried out to Palchana Simahi Simahi - which means Grisly Bear - I was delighted knowing I would see some rare sport. We made a circuit around the Bear to gain advantage of the wind. We got under cover of the ridge when Lamoose dismounted tied his horse and approached the animal within about 100 yds He could now plainly see the object of the chase it was a large female Bear with four cubs about 1/2 grown. She must either heard us or got scent of us for she heaved up on her hind feet & stood in an upright position some minute and while erect Lamoose took deliberate aim and fired, the bear jumped high off the ground & fell. then got up and commenced running off Lamoose was certain he had hit her from her actions - Palchana he string his bow and went in pursuit I followed. We run some 1/2 mile when the cubs separated Palchana took after one and soon shot it through with arrows I followed the old one and could Easily keep up but the animal I was riding would not approach or give me time to shoot - I knew the danger of being caught by a wounded bear she was badly wounded as there was traces of plenty blood where she would cross the snow. I was soon overtaken by Palchana We run it about 2 miles when she came to a small strip of Brush

wood through which we had no chance to shoot We dare not dismount however she soon left the thicket & crossed a small bottom over to another strip of brushwood here Palchana & I came close up on to her he fired once at her with a pistol and then shot two arrows at her. by this time she had got into the thicket so my animal could not see her when I wheeled around and took deliberate aim at her with my double Barrel gun heavily loaded with Buc Shot both loads took effect as she was but some 20 yds off by this time Lamoose came up she was not yet dead he also took a deliberate shot with his rifle about the distance that I shot. Palchana rode around the thicket & ventured in a small piece when he quickly turned his horse about & came out speaking in flat head Tars Etlecl" that is not dead yet. Lamoose reloaded his rifle Entered the thicket until within some 10 steps when he got a deliberate shot at her head - which finished the poor creatures Existence Lamoose commenced to skin her while Palchana went after the cub he had killed. We found the Meat to poor for use and left it and came over to where the guide had made camp - which is on the Columbia waters once more - We could have seen the three Tetons today had it not been cloudy The Salmon river Mountains are on our right about 10 miles from our camp to their summit - they are all white with snow travd today about 20 Miles Wood Scarce grass & water good - We tie but few of our animals tonight. the Guide thinks we are hardly out of danger Not enough at all events to sleep with our moccasins off this I hope will be the last night our animals will have to be tied. I want once more to go to bed with my clothes off in full confidence that no enemy is lurking on our trail."

Thursday May 1st. Left our camp this morning and followed the river down some 15 Miles in Search of a ford when the guide and Palchana deemed it unnecessary to look further as it was in their opinion passed fording in any place so we commenced to unpack and prepare for crossing the Lodges were soon converted into boats the children placed on top after Bales & Saddles guns &c had been nicely stowed away inside the Women clung to the Lodge & Swan after the Lodge [s] were drawn across by three horse with riders who took the cord fastened to the Lodge in their teeth We were Safely landed on the opposite bank in not over two hours time not a thing wet or lost a Snake Woman has just hailed us on the opposite bank belonging to one of the four Lodges that we passed on yesterday I have sent an Indian over with a Buff robe to cross her & her child in it is quite dark & I hope they may have a speedy & Safe passage over- We are Now within about 15 Miles of Fort Loring which we are in hopes to make tomorrow our Snake woman was afraid to cross in the dark so my Ind had his trip for nothing She made a fire on the opposite Bank and then quietly laid down to sleep on a soft bed of rock driftwood &c

John Owens Journal VII Journal of a trip from Fort Owen to the Dalles and Fort Vancouver beginning March 26, 1855, and of the return trip to Fort Owen, which was finished on July 25 Monday March 26 /55 left Fort Owen for the Dalles party Self & Wife 1 American George Goodwin 1 Ind[ians] Palchana, Lolo, Charley & Big Mat Animals packed Twenty loose animals 10 Ind horses one total 31 We have had a pleasant day for our start but I was late getting off as is always the case in starting After Crossing Lolo fork of B R River I found the Sun fast declining & too low to Move Much farther but I Succeeded in reaching the last Crossing of B. R. River & campd

Major John Owen JOURNAL IX

Owen's record for the year 1856. It includes events at the Fort when Owen was there and an account of two trips to Fort Benton and back

Friday 9 [May 1856] Jim & Francois returned to the Camp after finishing the repair of fence around Wheat field Another Blackfoot Lodge came up from below to day I think they have been to the Mission or on a visit to the Ponderreilles this makes five lodges Now in the valley Ambrose & Palchina came down to day from them I learn that the horse race Some time on the Carpet is to come off to Morrow between the Nez Perce's & Bonapart a 1/2 breed I find the feeling strong in favor of Bonapartes horse he came up from Mr Ogdens some days ago to Make a race & Either to break a span [?] or spoil a horse he having been disappointed last Spring when he came up for the Same purpose when I believe both parties were afraid of Each other & quietly withdrew the races from the turf

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May 1856

Thursday 15 A visit from Moese, Ambrose & Palchina - Piere also arrivd from the Mission on his way to hunt in the big hole Altered Iron Grey Steed Some little trade Coutenay's gone below & Some Ponderreilles 25 lb Sugar 10" Coffee

17 Saturday Planted my potatoes & Sowed Turnips & other Seed I have now a fine Stream of Water in Mill Creek It came down some time during the night Took my Buff Tongues out of pickle & hung them up in a Smoke house My Jennie quite Sick Sent for Palchina to act a Veterinary Surgeon he being the best one I know of Piere left to day for his hunt in big hole

Sunday 18 late last Evening had another arrival of Blackfeet two Men & two Women one of the Men was dressed in a most fantistic Manner and wore an English Medal I take them to be North Pegans and British Indians We have had Sundry reports lately of the appearance of Whites on their way down here We have been Expecting or rather looking for a Mormon Colony to be Sent by the church this way it may be them if true but as yet it's nothing but an Indian report and Needs confirmation My Jennie Still very Sick the Vetirinary surgeon is at a loss to Know the character of her disease It probably is not laid down in the work he is conversant with Symptom Stiff hard Neck & a weakness in the hind parts Staggers when she walks appetite apparently good with difficulty can get her head to the ground I am feeding her oats from a rack I shall be Sorry to lose her Elissel from Salmon river come in to day. The Small horse fly of a very annoying Species are Making their appearance. Dic and three other Nez Perces down this Evening

Wednesday 21 had a chase after one of My Wild horses Brooks distanced me completely & Succeeded in bringing him back Another visit from Elecssie to day traded some furs Ammunition about done- Turned three horses over to Palchina to day the two wild ones & one broke one he has the use of them to Buffaloe this Summer for the trouble he may have in breaking them & getting them gentle Indian Boy Charles Came to day to remain with me five Months or until such time as I return from fort Benton with my equipment next fall

Major John Owen JOURNAL XII

Detailing affairs at the Fort and in its neighborhood from December 14, 1857 to March 18, 1858, and the alarms caused by the Mormon War. During this period Owen married Nancy the Indian, and decided to make Thomas Harris his heir
of the outbreak - Mess Anderson & Meek gone up to pay Mr Burr a Visit

31 Thursday Mess Meek & Anderson retd from Mr Burrs Palchina a Flathead Indian arrived Victor the head chief with a few lodges is Campd in Hells Gate Rond fearing to [come] up having heard that the Nez Perces were here With the small pox Many of the Nez Perce Indians have died this Summer & fall having contracted the disease among the Crows on the Mo -

8 [January 1858] Friday Palchina Moved up with his Lodge from Hells Gate Some Nez Perce Indians Still prowling around [They are] abandoned Victims of the Small Pox it is hard Myself Mr. Harris & Mr. Irvine did this day Sign marraige contracts with our Indian Wives I have often thought of the Correctness of it & in the absence of any person duly authorized to perform the Marraige Ceremony We did it ourselves in the presence of Witnesses I have been living pleasantly With My old Wife Since the fall of 49 and in case of accident I should feel Much hurt if I had not properly provided for her according to law. I have also adopted Thos Irvine Harris as My lawful heir & do sincerely hope My Wishes May be carried out toward him

9 Saturday The Morning however was rather frosty Completed the Inventory's

10 Sunday In company with Mr. Harris I started to pay Mr Burr a friendly Visit but I was thwarted in my intentions by the ice Some five [miles] above the fort so we turned around and rode back home

11 Monday Mr Burr and his Wife came down to day 13 Wednesday the Employees of the fort busy making inventories of their private property Some Nez Perce lodges arrived from below

Major John Owen Journal XVI

March 1863

Saturday 21st A Messenger arrived late last Night from Palchina's branch of the Flathead Camp, reports Palchina with Some Nine lodges En Route for this Valley from the Mo river. The ball. of the Camp under Moese & Ambrose were over on the Muscle Shell. They are badly off for Meat. No Buffaloe

April 1863

Saturday 4" Some arrivals from the Indian camp report that Palchina had Seventy horses Stolen a few days ago in the Vicinity of the Little Blkfoot The report needs confirmation I hope it is not true as he is a very Excellent Man

Sunday 5" Mr. Harris lost a fine Am. Mare last Night on Three Mile Crk in giving birth to a foal. The loss of Palchina's horses is confirmed. He was Camped on flint Creek Waiting for the trail in the Hell Gate canon to be better beaten. He has paid Severely for his want of perseverance for he could have passed the trail as Chatfield with My Cattle from Deer Lodge had preceeded him Some Days. Drove up another Beef for the Slaughter pen Such a frame as Mr. Winds is getting out

PLATE I



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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Major John Owen

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[57] Sunday 27 Raised camp the morning being clear quite early thinking we would cross the divide & reach Snake river Valley - Palchana & one of my men Started in advance of Main camp with the cattle. Lamoose went on ahead to hunt- We had not moved far with camp when the guide discovd a man riding toward us at full speed - When close enough to recognise Lamoose we were afraid all was not right had the two men in advance been cut off by Black feet or what was the matter - I told the guide we would gallop & meet him and put an end to our disagreeable suspense We soon met When he spoke in Flathead - Sulthun sl [?]- understanding some of the language I knew what was out. Palchana had seen two Buff, on the ridge to our left and was waiting for us to come up with the band when he could catch his Buff, horse and go in pursuit of them we pushed on fast and some two miles brought us to him the Buff were still plain to be seen with a glass feeding & moving slowly over the ridge. I told the guide I would go and take a part in the chase and if I had a Buff horse to catch him & have him Saddled for me as the horse I was riding would not approach Buff, he Soon had me a fresh horse caught which Lamoose knew the Inds had been in the habit of running Buf with. I took Lamoose with me and an Ind Boy to lead a pack horse to carry the Meat into camp. We were confident we would get them Palchana lead his Buff horse also his Brother in law an Ind we call Edwards. It took some time to get off all the time the Buff, were moving from us and were probably at this time some 3 miles off. I told the guide to take the camp on a short piece and camp at the first good camp'g place. Off we went Edwards leading I was armed with a pair of Colts large revolvers. Palchana a Bow & quiver full of arrows Eds a Rifle & Belt Pistol. Lamoose with a Rifle. We gallopd slowly along so as to keep our horses in as good spirit as possible when we came up with the Buff. We soon saw them We had passed to far to the right we stopd to talk about the best mode to approach it was soon settled Palchana & Eds were soon on their Buff horses without saddles. I took off my holsters & Bear skin Saddle cover. gave Edwds one of my revolvers & carried the other and away we went at full speed. Lamoose in the lead. We soon ascended a small slope when Lamoose dismounted & fired and gave word for advance & run I did not take part at first being much delighted in seeing these Inds riding fearlessly & gracefully to after the Buff, the Buff took a turn and as they passed me I discharged one load at the one nearest to me he was a 3 year old Bull the other was a cow down hill we went as hard as horses could run crossd a ravine at a bound the Buff, soon lost ground in ascending the opposite slope. Palchana dismounted quick as thought and fired at the cow. neither of the shots as yet had any apparent affect- they reached the summit of the slope and separated I kept after the Bull with Edwds while Palchana & Lamoose followed the cow My horse being accustomed to the chase ran beautifully along side the Buff, his tongue out full length. I on one side Edwds on the other. I fired some 3 more shots - being so close Every Ball Entered 2 of my caps would not explode. I called to Edwds to give me my other pistol he said - qua na which means directly. he fired one shot & not Knowing how to manage the weapon he

gave it to me. When I discharged some three more loads into the body of the Buff immediately behind the fore shoulder he was failing fast in a few moments he came to a dead halt made a few staggering bounds towards us and fell dead Without a Struggle. Well we dismounted to butcher our meat supposing by this time the cow must be Killd also when we saw Palchana leading the pack animal towards us. he soon told us the cow had got away from him but that Lamoose & the Ind Boy had gone on after her. We Butchd & smoked a pipe packed our Meat and put off for the camp. After riding some 8 miles we came up & found the guide had campd & that Lamoose had come in & changed his horse & gone again in pursuit of the cow. he however has come in failing to find her again in the mountains We crossd a horse trail today about three days old supposed to be Bannac ["The Bannocks were a branch of the Snake Indians. They lived in the upper valleys of the Beaverhead and across the Rocky Mountains in the Lemhi Valley. They hunted buffalo in the Missouri River country and were enemies of the Blackfeet. The Blackfeet, like the Crows, were proud of their skill as horse thieves. Stuart, opus citra, v. 1, pp. 127, 155.] a Black foot trail discovd & crossd also- My guide says it was a party of about ten he thinks the[y] are lurking on the Bannac trail to steal their horses. I was in hopes that the camp today would have put us beyond danger but making a short camp on account of the hunt we had to tie all our animals again tonight - I suppose the camp has made ten Miles today*- We are campd on a small fork of B. H. grass good the ground passed over today has been bottom land with a rid[g]e on each side of us 185 m.

Monday 28 This morning we raised camp Early to endeavor to Make as long a march as to possible to gain what we lost yesterday We followed the small stream we were campd on up some 6 miles through a canyon which was rough and rocky We crossed a ridge over into a prairie which we crossd over to the dividing ridge between the Mo. & Columbia waters. about center of the Prairie we came to quite a considerable stream without a particle of wood on it this we found high and in one place only was fordable -and that by unpacking the animals and carrying the Bales &c over on the Mens backs they riding on horseback this detaind us probably one hour- When over and all packd again we came to the foot of the Divide probably some 3 miles from the Stream we crossd the ridge & found plenty of snow on the top and in the hollows When upon the Summit [The normal route of the traders was up to Lemhi Pass and to the Lemhi River. Owen may have chosen another pass to the south, and then have ridden southwest to a point near the Salmon River Mountains.] we came in full view of the Snake River Valley - which we were all delighted to see once more. I was riding in advance of the camp with the guide and the Ind Palchana - the latter was filling a pipe which we were going to smoke when Lamoose my hunter cried out in flat head to the guide and Ind Kricune -which Means whip your horse go fast he came up at full speed said he saw something pass around the point of a ridge a good piece ahead - as he came up & was about to pass I inquired of him what it was he had seen he said he did not know but thought it was Indians - away he went & I followed but a short distance & Palchana came up - on we then rode Lamoose in the lead we road some 3 miles over rolling ridges and small piece of bottom land. Lamoose however had gained the top of a ridge ahead of us when he suddenly turned his horse about and cried out to Palchana Simahi Simahi - which means Grisly Bear - I was delighted knowing I would see some rare sport. We made a circuit around the Bear to gain advantage of the wind. We got under cover of the ridge when Lamoose dismounted tied his horse and approached the animal within about 100 yds He could now plainly see the object of the chase it was a large female Bear with four cubs about 1/2 grown. She must either heard us or got scent of us for she heaved up on her hind feet & stood in an upright position some minute and while erect Lamoose took deliberate aim and fired, the bear jumped

high off the ground & fell. then got up and commenced running off Lamoose was certain he had hit her from her actions - Palchana he string his bow and went in pursuit I followed. We run some ½ mile when the cubs separated Palchana took after one and soon shot it through with arrows I followed the old one and could Easily keep up but the animal I was riding would not approach or give me time to shoot - I knew the danger of being caught by a wounded bear she was badly wounded as there was traces of plenty blood where she would cross the snow. I was soon overtaken by Palchana We run it about 2 miles when she came to a small strip of Brush wood through which we had no chance to shoot We dare not dismount however she soon left the thicket & crossd a small bottom over to another strip of brushwood here Palchana & I came close up on to her he fired once at her with a pistol and then shot two arrows at her. by this time she had got into the thicket so my animal could not see her when I wheeled around and took deliberate aim at her with my double Barrel gun heavily loaded with Buc Shot both loads took effect as she was but some 20 yds off by this time Lamoose came up she was not yet dead he also took a deliberate shot with his rifle about the distance that I shot. Palchana rode around the thicket & ventured in a small piece when he quickly turnd his horse about & came out speaking in flat head Tars Etlecl" that is not dead yet. Lamoose reloaded his rifle Entered the thicket until within some 10 steps when he got a deliberate shot at her head - which finished the poor creatures Existence Lamoose commenced to skin her while Palchana went after the cub he had killed. We found the Meat to poor for use and left it and came over to where the guide had made camp - which is on the Columbia waters once more - We could have seen the three Tetons today had it not been cloudy The Salmon river Mounts are on our right about 10 miles from our camp to their summit - they are all white with snow travd today about 20 Miles Wood Scarce grass & water good - We tie but few of our animals tonight. the Guide thinks we are hardly out of danger Not enough at all events to sleep with our moccassins off this I hope will be the last night our animals will have to be tied. I want once more to go to bed with my clothes off in full confidence that no enemy is lurking on our trail."

Thursday May 1st. Left our camp this morning and followed the river down some 15 Miles in Search of a ford when the guide and Palchana deemed is unnecessary to look further as it was in their opinion passd fording in any place so we commenced to unpack and prepare for crossing the Lodges were soon converted into boats the children placed on top after Bales & Saddles guns &c had been nicely stowd away inside the Women clung to the Lodge & Swan after the Lodge [s] were drawn across by three horse with riders who took the cord fastend to the Lodge in their teeth We were Safely landed on the opposite bank in not over two hours time not a thing wet or lost a Snake Woman has just haild us on the opposite bank belonging to one of the four Lodges that we passd on yesterday I have sent an Indian over with a Buff robe to cross her & her child in it is quite dark & I hope they may have a speedy & Safe passage over- We are Now within about 15 Miles of Fort Loring which we are in hopes to make tomorrow our Snake woman was afraid to cross in the dark so my Ind had his trip for nothing She made a fire on the opposite Bank and then quietly laid down to sleep on a soft bed of rock driftwood &c

John Owens Journal VII Journal of a trip from Fort Owen to the Dalles and Fort Vancouver beginning March 26, 1855, and of the return trip to Fort Owen, which was finished on July 25 Monday March 26 /55 left Fort Owen for the Dalles party Self & Wife 1 American George Goodwin 1 Ind[jians] Palchina, Lolo, Charley & Big Mat Animals packed Twenty loose animals

10 Ind horses one total 31 We have had a pleasant day for our start but I was late getting off as is always the case in starting After Crossing Lolo fork of B R River I found the Sun fast declining & too low to Move Much farther but I Succeeded in reaching the last Crossing of B. R. River & campd

Major John Owen JOURNAL IX

Owen's record for the year 1856. It includes events at the Fort when Owen was there and an account of two trips to Fort Benton and back

Friday 9 [May 1856] Jim & Francois returned to the Camp after finishing the repair of fence around Wheat field Another Blackfoot Lodge came up from below to day I think they have been to the Mission or on a visit to the Ponderreilles this makes five lodges Now in the valley Ambrose & Palchina came down to day from them I learn that the horse race Some time on the Carpet is to come off to Morrow between the Nez Perce's & Bonapart a 1/2 breed I find the feeling strong in favor of Bonapartes horse he came up from Mr Ogdens some days ago to Make a race & Either to break a span [?] or spoil a horse he having been disappointed last Spring when he came up for the Same purpose when I believe both parties were afraid of Each other & quietly withdrew the races from the turf

Major John Owen JOURNAL IX

Owen's record for the year 1856. It includes events at the Fort when Owen was there and an account of two trips to Fort Benton and back

May 1856

Thursday 15 A visit from Moese, Ambrose & Palchina - Piere also arrivd from the Mission on his way to hunt in the big hole Altered Iron Grey Steed Some little trade Coutenay's gone below & Some Ponderreilles 25 lb Sugar 10" Coffee

17 Saturday Planted my potatoes & Sowed Turnips & other Seed I have now a fine Stream of Water in Mill Creek It came down some time during the night Took my Buff Tongues out of pickle & hung them up in a Smoke house My Jennie quite Sick Sent for Palchina to act a Veterinary Surgeon he being the best one I know of Piere left to day for his hunt in big hole

Sunday 18 late last Evening had another arrival of Blackfeet two Men & two Women one of the Men was dressed in a most fantistic Manner and wore an English Medal I take them to be North Pegans and British Indians We have had Sundry reports lately of the appearance of Whites on their way down here We have been Expecting or rather looking for a Mormon Colony to be Sent by the church this way it may be them if true but as yet it's nothing but an Indian report and Needs confirmation My Jennie Still very Sick the Vetirinary surgeon is at a loss to Know the character of her disease It probably is not laid down in the work he is conversant with Symptom Stiff hard Neck & a weakness in the hind parts Staggers when she walks appetite apparently good with difficulty can get her head to the ground I am feeding her oats from a rack I shall be Sorry to lose her Elissel from Salmon river come in to day. The Small horse fly of a very annoying Species are Making their appearance. Dic and three other Nez Perces down this Evening

Wednesday 21 had a chase after one of My Wild horses Brooks distanced me completely & Succeeded in bringing him back Another visit from Elecssie to day traded some furs Ammunition about done- Turned three horses over to Palchina to day the two wild ones & one

broke one he has the use of them to Buffaloe this Summer for the trouble he may have in breaking them & getting them gentle Indian Boy Charles Came to day to remain with me five Months or until such time as I return from fort Benton with my equipment next fall

Major John Owen JOURNAL XII

Detailing affairs at the Fort and in its neighborhood from December 14, 1857 to March 18, 1858, and the alarms caused by the Mormon War. During this period Owen married Nancy the Indian, and decided to make Thomas Harris his heir
of the outbreak - Mess Anderson & Meek gone up to pay Mr Burr a Visit

31 Thursday Mess Meek & Anderson retd from Mr Burrs Palchina a Flathead Indian arrived Victor the head chief with a few lodges is Campd in Hells Gate Rond fearing to [come] up having heard that the Nez Perces were here With the small pox Many of the Nez Perce Indians have died this Summer & fall having contracted the disease among the Crows on the Mo -

8 [January 1858] Friday Palchina Moved up with his Lodge from Hells Gate Some Nez Perce Indians Still prowling around [They are] abandoned Victims of the Small Pox it is hard Myself Mr. Harris & Mr. Irvine did this day Sign marraige contracts with our Indian Wives I have often thought of the Correctness of it & in the absence of any person duly authorized to perform the Marraige Ceremony We did it ourselves in the presence of Witnesses I have been living pleasantly With My old Wife Since the fall of 49 and in case of accident I should feel Much hurt if I had not properly provided for her according to law. I have also adopted Thos Irvine Harris as My lawful heir & do sincerely hope My Wishes May be carried out toward him

9 Saturday The Morning however was rather frosty Completed the Inventory's

10 Sunday In company with Mr. Harris I started to pay Mr Burr a friendly Visit but I was thwarted in my intentions by the ice Some five [miles] above the fort so we turned around and rode back home

11 Monday Mr Burr and his Wife came down to day 13 Wednesday the Employees of the fort busy making inventories of their private property Some Nez Perce lodges arrived from below

Major John Owen Journal XVI

March 1863

Saturday 21st A Messenger arrived late last Night from Palchina's branch of the Flathead Camp, reports Palchina with Some Nine lodges En Route for this Valley from the Mo river. The ball. of the Camp under Moese & Ambrose were over on the Muscle Shell. They are badly off for Meat. No Buffaloe

April 1863

Saturday 4" Some arrivals from the Indian camp report

that Palchina had Seventy horses Stolen a few days ago in the Vicinity of the Little Blkfoot The report needs confirmation I hope it is not true as he is a very Excellent Man

Sunday 5" Mr. Harris lost a fine Am. Mare last Night on Three Mile Crk in giving birth to a foal. The loss of Palchina's horses is confirmed. He was Camped on flint Creek Waiting for the trail in the Hell Gate canon to be better beaten. He has paid Severely for his want of perseverance for he could have passed the trail as Chatfield with My Cattle from Deer Lodge had preceeded him

Some Days. Drove up another Beef for the Slaughter pen Such a frame as Mr. Winds is getting out

Monday 6" The band of horses brought up. Busy altering & branding Colts. Old Victor the Chief Sent a band of horses to the relief of the party put afoot by the Bannacs on Flint Creek. News from the Camp. Palchina with a few Men Went in pursuit of the Stolen horses & Met with a Sad fate. He & one other were kild by the party that Stole the horses. Poor Man he was one of our best Indians I truly regret his death. He was Ever foremost & brave wer danger Called. He was inoffensive but firm in Exacting his proper rights. Chatfield moved out on to three Mile Creek."