

Chapter 2

Viola Ashley

By the middle 1920s, Daddy had reached the valley of his birth, Mission Valley, on the Flathead Reservation of western Montana. After settling in St. Ignatius, one of the first people he was to meet was a local rancher, Charles Ashley. And before too long he had also met Charlie's daughter, Viola. She always called herself Viola but to many of her family she was Violet.

Louis Jamison said Daddy was working in the apple warehouses in Wenatchee, Washington in the 1920s. He remembers this because he said, "Uncle Louis once a year sent the Jamison family a box of apples. The Jamison family lived in Polson, Montana, then." But this may be an error in Louis Jamison's memory. Although it could be so as Daddy did tell me once he had come to Wenatchee once "a long time ago" and rode a stage coach to get here.

Viola Ashley's lineage goes back to France, England, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland. She came from original pioneer stock. The Ashley line is not traced as far back as that of our Courchene ancestors, only a few generations in comparison. There is no doubt that this Ashley line will eventually be connected to Jacques Asselin, the early Quebec pioneer. The earliest Ashley we know of is Jean Pierre Asselin who came here from Canada and was a Hudson's Bay Company trapper and trader. He married a Cree woman named Rosalie who was born about 1793. They had brought their family into western Montana by the 1830's or early 1840's. Their son, William Asselin (Ashley) was born sometime prior to 1828 and in Canada. He was a trapper and trader too and had married Jacques Raphael "Jocko" Finley's daughter, Marguerite, usually called Maggie. She was one-half Spokane. Their son, Pierre Ashley called "Po-lot-kun" was born around 1843 and died in 1902. He married Mary Ermatinger, the daughter of HBC Chief Trader, Francis Ermatinger, in 1863 at St. Ignatius Mission, Montana. Mary lived to be 102 years old and was one-half Pend d'Oreille. Their son, Charles "Mimise" Ashley born 1878 and died in 1929, he married Helen Newman in 1903 at St. Ignatius, Montana. Newman Lake near Spokane was named in honor of her father, William Newman, who had married Elizabeth Barnaby (of the Martin dit Barnabe family of fur hunters). Charlie was a cowboy and rancher. Their daughter was Viola Ashley (we will call her Momma in this book).

Momma, was born on August 13, 1909, (a Friday the 13th, a day she had always called her "lucky day"), in St. Ignatius, Missoula County, Montana, on the Flathead Reservation. St. Ignatius now sits in Lake County. The Rev. Jerome D'Aste, S.J. baptized her at the St. Ignatius Catholic Church on August 24, 1909. Her sponsors were William "Uncle Lem" Ashley and Elizabeth "Auntie" Ashley.

Momma's people were called the Upper Pend d'Oreille, or Q'ispé (Kalispel), those of the Mission Valley being the Slqtkwmscint, the people living along the shore of the Flathead Lake. The Pend d'Oreille was the closest Salish tribe to the Salish proper, or Flatheads, in language and customs. The name *Pend d'Oreille* is of French origin, and it means "hangs

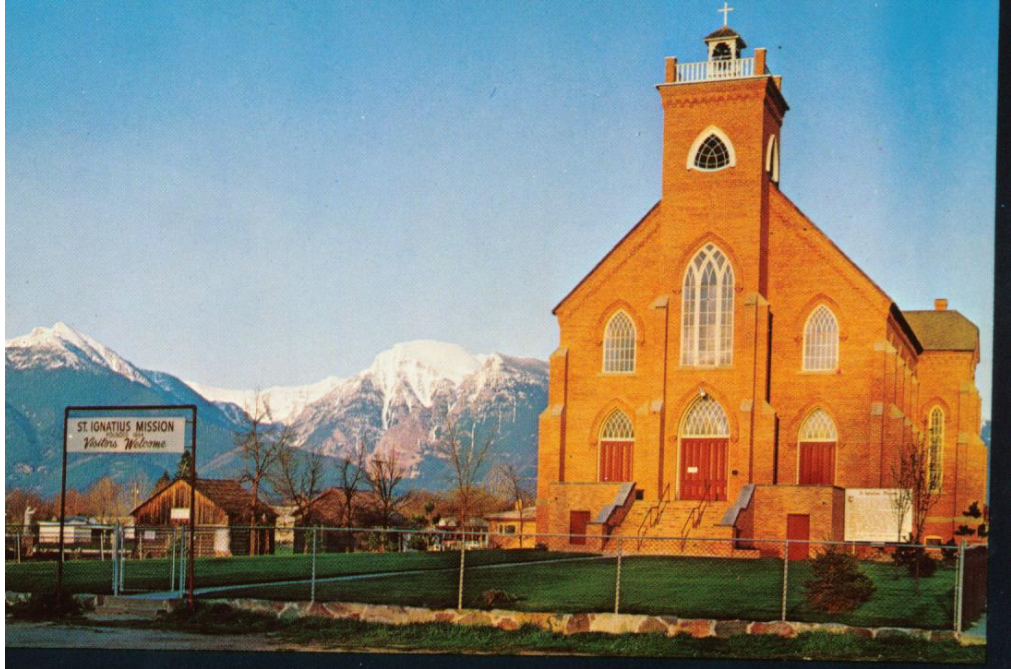
from ears", which refers to the large shell earrings that these people wore. Of the 564 federally recognized tribes, our family belongs to at least nine of the tribes.

The Q'ispé believed that the Fox and Coyote were here at the Creation and roamed the Earth preparing it for man. The Salish people were very numerous in those days and had to split into bands in order to hunt and gather food. Their land included almost all of Montana, and parts of Wyoming, Idaho, Washington and Canada. A long, long time ago (before the 1700's) a man called Xalíqs (Shining Shirt) was a Salish prophet and told the Q'ispé of the coming of men in Black Robes. Sometime between 1650 and 1700 the horse were traded from the Shoshone. They called the horses "Big Dogs." By 1775 their mortal enemies the Blackfeet had acquired guns from the traders of the North West Company.

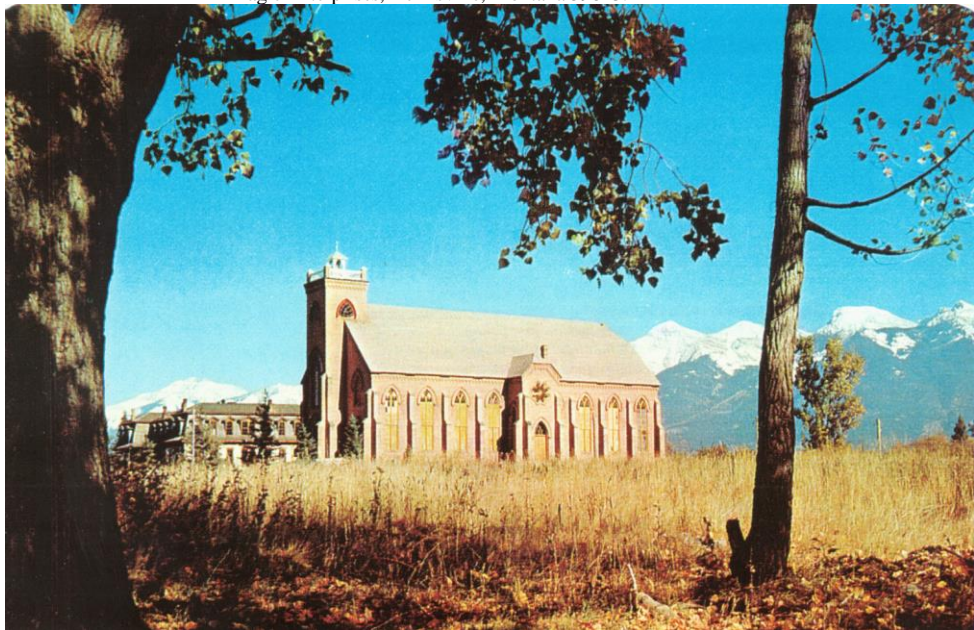
"A smallpox outbreak reached a group of Salish camped in the Missoula area. The camp divided - families with smallpox and those without. One group went to the Bitterroot Valley while the other moved to the Drummond area. Only one boy in the Bitterroot camp survived the epidemic. By 1782, small pox had killed an estimated one-half to three quarters of the Salish and Pend d' Oreille bands. The combination of the introduction of disease, firearms and horses led to massive changes in intertribal territories. Blackfeet expansion caused eastern bands of the Salish and Pend d' Oreille to move their winter camps west of the continental divide. The Salishan people called the Turíáxn, who occupied the Rocky Mountain front, were decimated. The survivors scattered to the west and merged with other tribes, bringing about the near extinction of a native people."

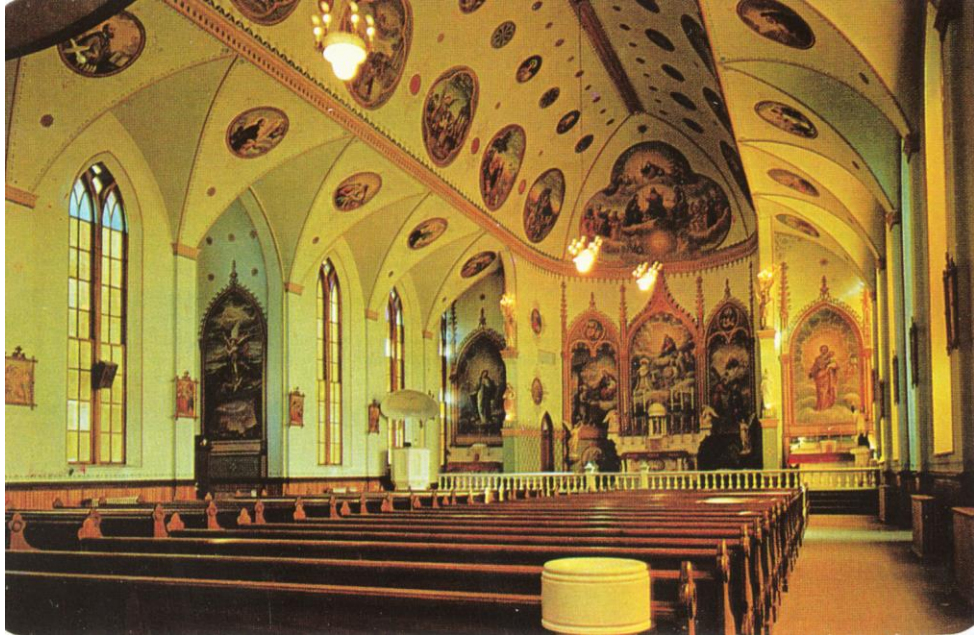
Flathead Reservation Timeline Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes 2010 - <http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/IndianEd/IEFA/FlatheadTimeline.pdf>

In the 1790s and early 1800s the French and Canadian fur traders were seen frequently by the Q'ispé and the other Salish. Men like Jocko Finlay, David Thompson and Meriwether Lewis and William Clark roamed the territory. "Saleesh House, at Sqeyłk^wm - Salish place name in reference to "the Sound of Falling Water" located at Thompson Falls along with Kullyspell House at Lake Pend Oreille in present day North Idaho established fur posts in Salish and Pend' Oreille aboriginal territory." In the late 1830's men like Francis Ermatinger, Father De Smet and Angus McDonald appeared in the lives of the Salish. And then came the Americans and it all changed after this. This was when Pierre Ashley and his wife, Mary Ermatinger started their large family. One of their sons, was Charlie Ashley became a rancher and cowboy as did his brothers. They lived in Mission Valley at St. Ignatius. All the changes in the life style of the Q'ispés were experienced by the Ashleys.



St. Ignatius Mission, post card made by David Hall, 1979, Big Sky
Magic Enterprises, Helmsville, Montana 59843.





Post cards of St. Ignatius Mission Church showing exterior & interior (courtesy of Jesuit Oregon Province Archives, Gonzaga University negative numbers 114.6.01 & 114.5.04)



Helen Newman Ashley



Grandma Ashley & Uncle Lem



Auntie Ashley



Charlie & Mitch Ashley



Ursuline's School (courtesy of JoAnn Blood Roullier)



Father Jerome D'Aste, S.J., 1890. (Gonzaga University)

Father Jerome D'Aste

(<http://www.content.lib.washington.edu/cgi-bin/html>)



Father Louis Taelman

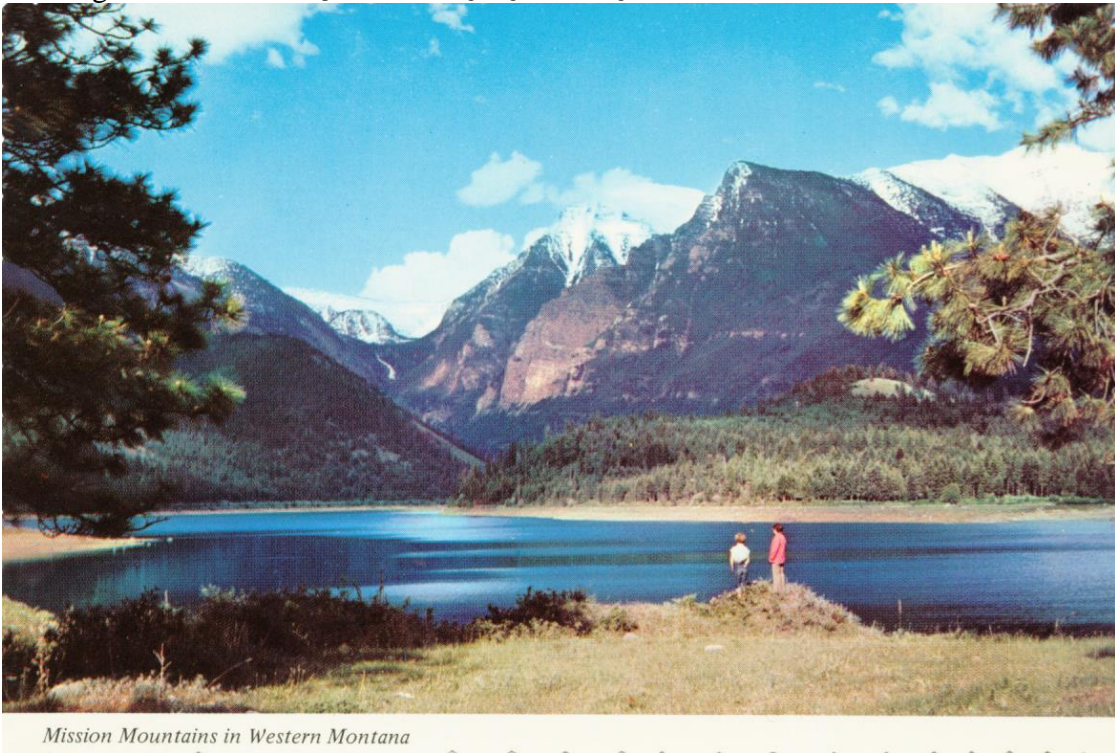


Charley Ashley with his children, Phillip and Louise, and horse "Nig".

Momma was raised in St. Ignatius, a little town with a colorful history, which until a few years ago had remained much the same for decades, and still today 2011 has a population of less than 1,000. The Ashley place was nestled under the shadows of the Mission Range of the Rocky Mountains, about three or four miles from town.



St. Ignatius in 1916 (<http://www.edheritage.org/flathead/stignatius-1916-850.html>)



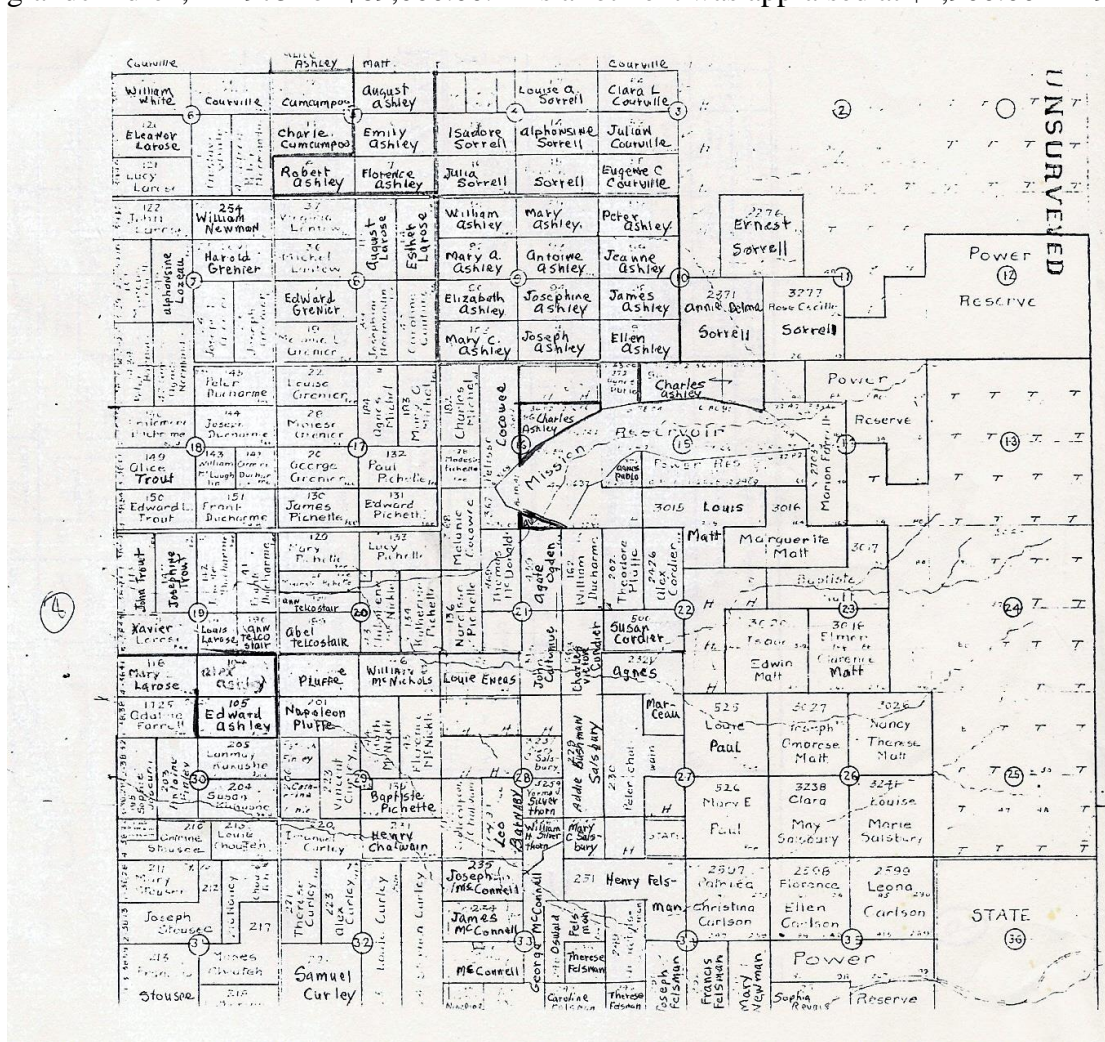
Mission Mountains in Western Montana

The Ashley ranch is now covered over by the Mission Dam Reservoir.

The post card made by Ernst Peterson, Dan Sample Postcards, Frenchtown, Mt. This post card shows the extreme right of the photograph above, and includes Mount Sinelimen which is not shown in the 1916 black and white photograph above. The Mission Falls is visible in both the photograph and the postcard, on the extreme right in the photograph and in the middle left on the post card.

Charles Ashley's place was on allotment #96 at a spot now covered over by the reservoir of Mission Dam. There aren't many people still alive who can recall an exact description of the place on the original allotment, but Joe Ashley remembered that Charlie Ashley had a house and livestock there. Also that the place had a very nice round corral and Mission Creek ran through the property, furnishing the Ashley's with a good source of water. Photographs of the Charles Ashley place show a well built log house with a high slanted

roof, and a high chicken wire fence around it. When the Flathead Irrigation Project was started in the Mission Valley around 1910 (to accommodate the expected newcomers because the reservation had been given over to homesteads that year), one of the projected sites for a reservoir and dam was the Ashley allotment. Charlie Ashley's allotment and ranch were traded for Lots 1, 2, 3 Sec.15, and Lots 1, 2, and 5, Sec. 16, Tp., N., R.19w., M.M., in Montana, containing 176.52 acres instead of the normal 160. The additional acres were added in the deal. This land was apparently never lived on and was sold back to the Tribes by his surviving children: Rose Williams and Louise Wheeler, and his grandchildren, in 1975 for \$69,000.00. His allotment was appraised at \$1,900.00 in 1929.



This shows Charlie Ashley's allotment around Mission Dam reservoir.



THE ASHLEY FAMILY
about 1919-20

Foreground: the family pet, a goat

1st Row: Antoine Ashley, Letta Ashley, Phillip Ashley, Frank Ashley, & Cecile Madsen

2nd Row: Lucy Ashley, Viola Ashley, Mary "Girlie" Ashley, unknown little girl, & Mitch Ashley
(Mona Bland Ashley?)

3rd Row: Agnes Madsen, Rosalie Ashley, unknown little boy, Mary Ermatinger Ashley, holding baby girl who is probably Margaret Louise Ashley, & George Ashley.

4th Row: Joseph H. Ashley, Charlie Ashley, Emily Newman Ashley, Helen Newman Ashley in doorway next to Emily, Jeanne Ashley, August Ashley, & William Ashley.

Photograph probably taken by Elizabeth Ashley.



Charley and Helen Ashley had ten other children besides Momma. They were: James (Jan. 23, 1903-June 10, 1932, Marguerite Genevieve "Jeanne" (September 10, 1904-September 11, 1965), Peter (March 28, 1906-January 10, 1909), Rosalie Carmelita (December 12, 1907-November 24, 1990), Lucy Angeline (March 17, 1911-September 28, 1975), Letta "Letty" (December 15, 1912-July 7, 1946), Phillip (September 16, 1914-October 10, 1955), Mary Elizabeth (May 15, 1916-December 19, 1917), Charles William (May 30, 1918-August 28, 1919, and Margaret Louise "Peggy" (November 13, 1919-June 18, 1994). The Spanish flu raged across America and the World in 1918 and I often wonder if that is what killed Mary and Charles.

A letter written by Helen (Ellen) Newman Ashley to her brother James Newman dated February 24, 1909. The original is in the possession of J. Charles (Chuck) Courville of Charlo, Montana.

"St. Ignatius Mission
Missoula Co.
Montana
Feb. 24, 1909

"Dear Brother

"I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know how we are getting along. We have had bad luck, three of our little ones were sick and one of them died, the little Boy, he was three years old, he was sick ten days and died. He had big Blue Eyes and Reddish hair, ever body that knew our father said he was just the picture of him, his name

was Peter. He was full of fun all the time, it was his first time to get sick and it killed him, it is very hard for me to think I have" (the left corner of the letter is torn away, but reading between the lines the letter seems to say) lost him "because he had different ways" from the others. "I wish you had seen him, but" I didn't "even get his picture all I" do have "is his little hair. Well, dear" brother I "have told you all about my little dear boy. So I will tell you my other little ones names the oldest boy was named after you James. And the little girl named Jennie" and the "baby, Rosie."

"Rosie and Jennie were very sick to, they almost died. Now they are afful (sic) thin. When Willie got back and told me about you I just wished it was me that seen you, but I suppose it will be a long time before I see you.

It is just like in the spring time (word illegible) it doesn't look like if they will be anymore snow and I am glad too.

"Well dear Brother I will close for this time. Next time I will try and have good news to tell you about ever thing I have got.

"You must answer soon.

"We send you love and best wishes.

"I remain as ever your loving Sister.

"Mrs. Hellen Ashley St. Ignatius Mission

"P.S. I found some.....of my little Boy's hair and thought I.....would send you `some to look at even if you....." the rest of the letter was missing.

Momma's childhood was typical of the day. There is a very good reason to believe that she was a tom-boy. She would tell of horseback riding, doing farm chores, and of occasionally getting herself into trouble due to her disregard of elderly authority. Her most frequent companions were her sisters, Lucy, Rosy, and Letta, and her brother Phillip. Together they had many children's adventures or misadventures; whatever the case may have been. I have a photograph showing Momma, Lucy and Letta taken at the Ashley place. They look like three genuine tom-boys. One year, Viola and the rest of the Ashley kids were given a calf by their father. He had written down in an old check book the date of each calf's birth and whose calf it was.



Charlie Ashley & the Allison kids
Helen and Dorothy



Jimmy Ashley



Louise & Phillip Ashley



Three of the Ashley Girls: Letta, Viola (Momma) and Lucy at the family ranch.

Momma would tell with pleasure a tale of how she rode one of Charley Ashley's horses. It seems that there was a horse on the ranch that was considered too dangerous for children to ride or even to be near. The horse had bucked off a few of the local cowboys who had tried to ride him, including Charley and his brothers, all very good cowboys. Charley had often warned his children to stay away from that particular horse, but curiosity and the thrill of danger got the best of the Ashley kids. Finally, they sneaked out to the corral to see the horse. One thing led to another and it wasn't long before they decided to ride the horse. After they had all tried and been bucked off or scared off, Momma was finally able to stay on him long enough to claim the distinction of being the first to ride the "bad" horse. It would be interesting to know how much dust had been kicked up, how many falls were made, how many dares were called out, and to see the excited children and horse perform their miniature rodeo that day.

Sometime during her childhood, Momma came down with polio, which was to cause her limp slightly for the rest of her life. In fact, it was such a slight limp that it wasn't noticeable unless she was very tired.

Momma's mother, Helen (Newman) Ashley, died on July 17, 1920 after a long illness. Momma was ten years old at that time. All that she could recall about the occasion was that one day, while she was playing in the yard, she looked up to see her mother being taken away. She was told that her mother would be gone for awhile, but her mother soon died. The next time she saw her mother was at her funeral. The Ashley kids attended, but were only allowed to see their mother's arm. A sheet covered the rest of Helen (Newman) Ashley.

Momma attended the Catholic boarding school at St. Ignatius Mission. These schools were administered by the Sisters of Providence and Ursuline Sisters. On December 8, 1919, the entire establishment of the Sisters of Providence was destroyed by fire. That night it dropped down to 10 degrees Fahrenheit, freezing the water pipes. It was a miserable night for the 120 pupils that were forced out into the cold. Accommodations were made for the students to stay with the Fathers and the Ursuline nuns, until the Sisters of Providence

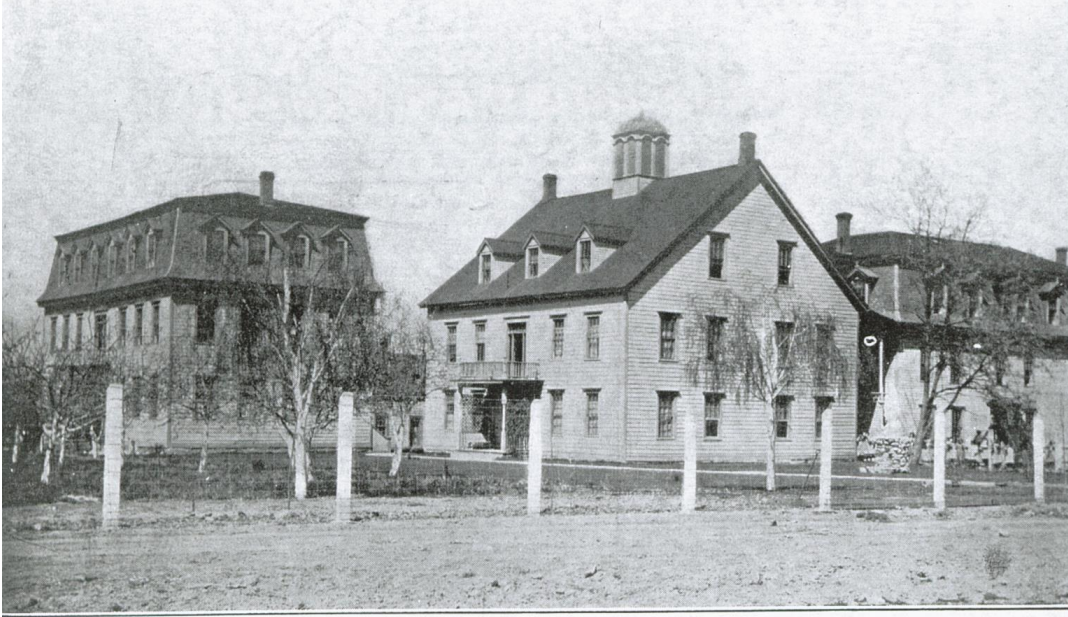
could rebuild. Later the Villa Ursula School was built to replace the old school, but this school also burned down, in 1922. Where Momma was on that night in 1919, home or at the school, is not known. She was considered as “undesirable” by the school authorities.

In an article in the Char-Koosta News, June 30, 2005 about Laura Morigeau Matte by Maggie Plummer, it says: “Laura has all-too-clear memories of two fires that happened while she was living at the Ursuline School in St. Ignatius. One was in the school's laundry room. “The nuns locked us kids in a room, and the place was on fire,” she says. “The men from town let us kids out. That was a tall wooden building, two or three stories, and it burned fast.” Needless to say it was a dangerous situation. Another time, later, another fire started [in the] night and Laura's cousin Olive Morigeau woke everyone up in the dormitory: “We had to go downstairs and we barely got out in time.”

She remembered her school days with a bit of humor. One tale that she told with relish was of peeking through a hole or crack into an adjacent room occupied by one of the nuns. One night, while spying on the Sister, the girls saw, to their astonishment, that the Sister didn't have any hair on her head. Momma always said that the Sister was bald. She never could get over the idea of a bald woman and always told the story with her face lit up in a broad smile.

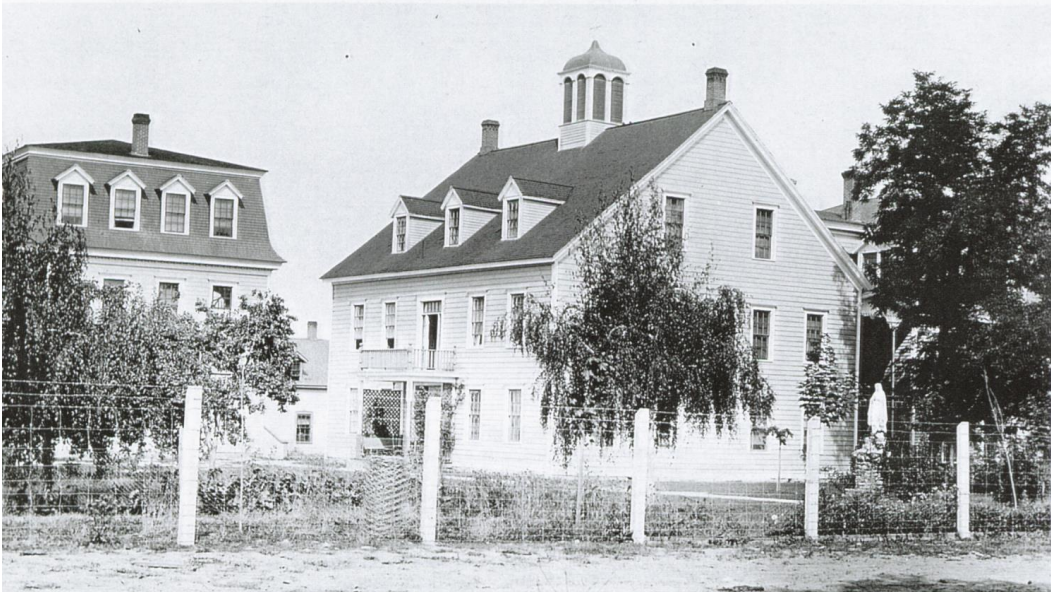


Sisters of Providence Girl's School (center slanted roof building) (courtesy of Jesuit Oregon Province Archives, Gonzaga University, negative number 114.4.3a)



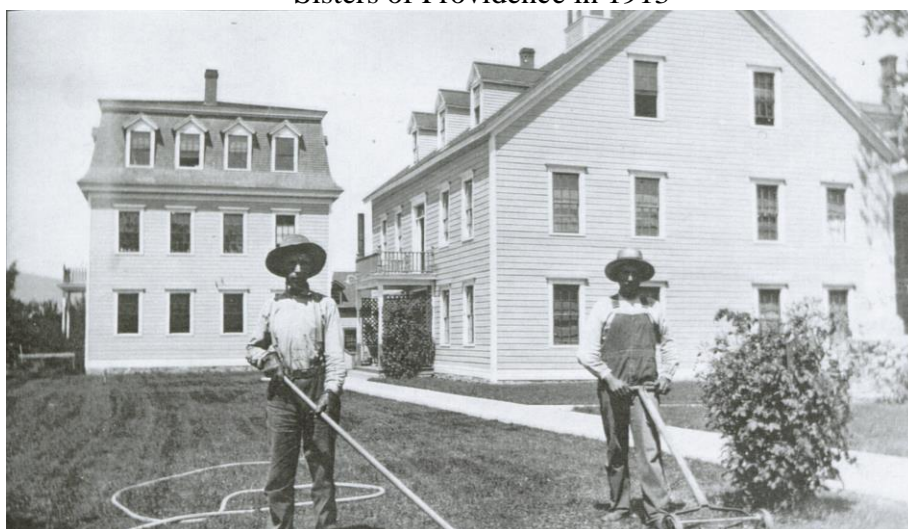
HOUSE OF PROVIDENCE, ST. IGNATIUS, MONT.

(Courtesy of Jesuit Oregon Province Archives, Gonzaga University, negative no. 114.8.04 and below 114.8.01)





Sisters of Providence in 1913



Sisters of Providence School



St. Ignatius Ursuline Convent and School



Ursuline Convent & School

All above pictures through the courtesy of the Jesuit Oregon Province Archives, Gonzaga University (negative numbers 114.8.04, 114.8.03, 114.9.01 & 114.9.02)

As a member of the Salish and Kootenai Tribes, (5/16 Pend d'Oreille and Spokane), she was given an allotment #2487 of 160 acres of timber land near St. Mary's Lake. On the allotment, there is a stream from which flows cold, clear mountain water. Near the road that runs by the allotment, the stream trickles over a dirt bank, making it very accessible to passersby. Many a person has quenched their thirst from it. Sometimes a pipe was stuck into the stream at that spot and at other times it seems to have been washed away by the spring thaw. Dad, it is remembered, placed a pipe there in the 1920s. In 1982 it was reported that a pipe is still protruding from the bank, but newly placed there, some say, by Robert Mitchell.

STATE: Montana COUNTY: Missoula TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY: Ward 1 NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE: St. Ignace DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 162 SHEET NO. 1405 WARD OF CITY: 1405 ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 22 DAY OF January 1920. NAME OF INSTITUTION: X OCCUPATION: None

PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME	RELATION	SEX	RACE	DATE OF BIRTH	EDUCATION	MARRIAGE	PATRIETY AND BORN		OCCUPATION
								FATHER	MOTHER	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	William J. Brown	Head	M	White	1874	High School	Married	Montana	Montana	None
2	John J. Brown	Wife	F	White	1874	High School	Married	Montana	Montana	None
3	Robert J. Brown	Son	M	White	1900	High School	Single	Montana	Montana	None
4	William J. Brown	Son	M	White	1902	High School	Single	Montana	Montana	None
5	John J. Brown	Son	M	White	1904	High School	Single	Montana	Montana	None
6	William J. Brown	Son	M	White	1906	High School	Single	Montana	Montana	None
7	John J. Brown	Son	M	White	1908	High School	Single	Montana	Montana	None
8	William J. Brown	Son	M	White	1910	High School	Single	Montana	Montana	None
9	John J. Brown	Son	M	White	1912	High School	Single	Montana	Montana	None
10	William J. Brown	Son	M	White	1914	High School	Single	Montana	Montana	None
11	John J. Brown	Son	M	White	1916	High School	Single	Montana	Montana	None
12	William J. Brown	Son	M	White	1918	High School	Single	Montana	Montana	None
13	John J. Brown	Son	M	White	1920	High School	Single	Montana	Montana	None

From The Ronan Pioneer, Thursday, August 13, 1923, p1:
 "Youth is Lost in the Mission Range"

Three persons were hunting in the wooded fastness of the snow-capped Mission mountains for James Ashley twenty years of age, a resident of St. Ignatius, who has been lost in the Mission range since Wednesday afternoon of last week. The father of the boy who was with him on a camping trip, is heading one of the posses. Sheriff Green of Missoula heads another and the third is made up of relatives of the young man.

The father expressed a hope that his son will be found alive but said he feared it would be his son's body which will be brought to him. He is a sufferer from epilepsy and it is feared he might have been overcome by an attack.

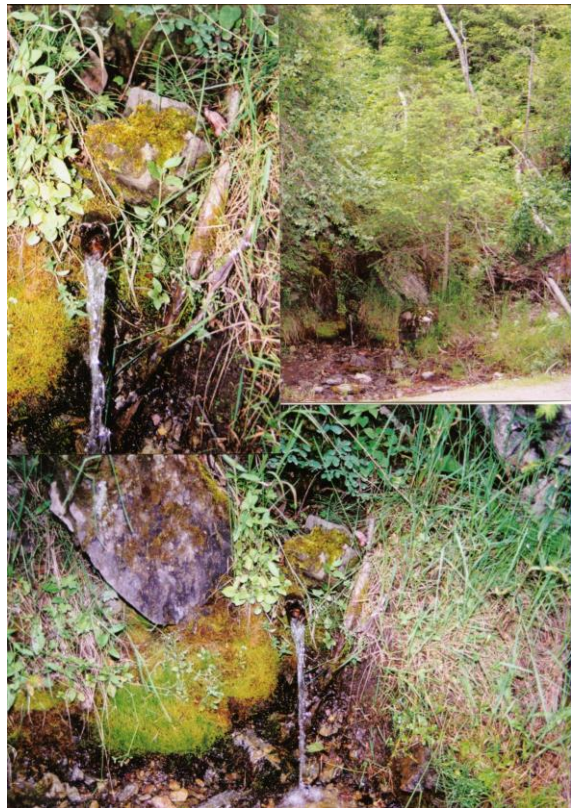
Charles Ashley, father of the young man, reached St. Ignatius last Saturday night in an exhausted condition, to ask for help in finding his son. The father, son and Charles Dumont left the Mission on a camping trip early last week. They went to the summit of the Mission range to camp at Summit Lake. On Wednesday the father and son were returning to camp about four o'clock in the afternoon. The father pointed out camp, a short way ahead, to the boy and asked him to go in and start a fire while he went around the hill for a short distance. The son was not in camp when the father arrived. When he did not come in for supper a search was begun which continued throughout Wednesday night and until Saturday morning when the father told Mr. Dumont that help be sought." Jimmy Ashley was found. I wonder what the story turned out ?



The water flowing from Momma's old allotment near St. Mary's Lake.



Cool clear water!



A collage of photographs of the pipe.



Photo shot by me from the roadside while Robert Mitchell and I toured the backroads of the reservation, looking at some old and favorite places, in 1999.



Momma and her Dad, Charlie Ashley



With Aunt Rosie, no one can figure out what they are doing. I bet they are digging compost for the garden. This is at Charlie Ashley's ranch which is now under Mission Dam Reservoir.





A stop to pose during a trip to the strawberry fields near Missoula, Montana. Left to right: Letta, Rose, Charlie, and Viola Ashley Note: Photo fan in Letta's hand looks like silent film star Mary Pickford. When sack dresses and flapper hats were in style. Momma is balancing on the rail with her hands on her hips.

Chuck Courville, a grandson has two interesting documents of Charlie Ashley's. One a military draft registration dated 12 September 1918. The other is a motor vehicle registration. Though he could not drive (Jim and Joe Ashley usually drove for him), he owned a 1919 Dodge Touring Car. The fee for registration was \$15.00 - #44744.

5-885 a G5 Film # 1026835

ANNUAL SCHOOL CENSUS REPORT

No.	NAMES OF ALL CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE (5 TO 18 YEARS).	SEX.	AGE.	GRADE.	RACE AND COLOR OF INDIAN BLOOD.	IS CHILD A CITIZEN OR NON-CITIZEN.	RESTRICTED OR UNRESTRICTED.	RESIDENCE OF CHILD'S HOME FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL.	NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN.	NAME OR NO. OF SCHOOL CHILD IS ATTENDING.
65	Provest Joseph B.	M	7	2nd	W	Non	Res	Conin	Oliva & Provest	St Ignace Mission
66	Charley Jack Lee	M	9	1st	W	Non	Res	Conin	Oliva & Provest	St Ignace Mission
1.	Alma Adelaide	F	14	2nd	W	"	"	"	Alma Alma	"
2.	Alma Harriet	F	9	1st	W	"	"	"	"	"
3.	Ashley Viola	F	15	5th	W	"	"	"	Charles Ashley	"
4.	Ashley Lucy	F	13	1st	W	"	"	"	"	"
5.	Ashley Letta	F	15	5th	W	"	"	"	"	"
6.	Ashley Mary Estine	F	9	2nd	W	"	"	"	Josephine Ashley	"
7.	Edmond Loretta	F	9	1st	W	"	"	"	Edna Edmond	"

I don't quite know what to think of this, other than the Ashley girls were kept home from school. Fifteen seems a little old to be in the 5th grade.



Auntie and Uncle Lem Ashley with a little girl from New York



Auntie, see the PA brand on the horse? That was Pierre Ashley's brand.



Aunt Jenny Ashley (Allison) and Momma (Viola Ashley Courchane) Notice the high buttoned shoes. This is the house that Momma was probably born in. Sweetpeas grow along the chicken wire fence. And possibly the rhubarb plants.



Momma and Aunt Lucy

Aunt Lucy has her husband, Fred Glover's clothes on and Momma has her Dad's clothes on as a joke.



Momma and Aunt Jenny



Aunt Jennie Ashley Allison



Charlie Ashley

The first doctor in St. Ignatius was Dr. T. A. Matthews who stayed on the reservation until 1924 as this article in the Ronan Pioneer on January 4, 1924 shows: “St. Ignatius Notes – Dr. T.A. Matthews has sold the business of the Mission Drug Co. to R. A. Griffin, an experienced pharmacist of Kalispell, who has already taken possession. Dr. Matthews was the Mission’s first doctor, he having come here when the country was very new, and has built up a successful practice and become a skillful surgeon. He will leave soon for California where he has extensive oil interests.”



St. Ignatius in 1916 (<http://www.edheritage.org/flathead/stignatius-1916-850-3.html>)

The flat farmland up against the Mission Mountains to the extreme right is where a great number of the Ashley tribal allotments were (and are).



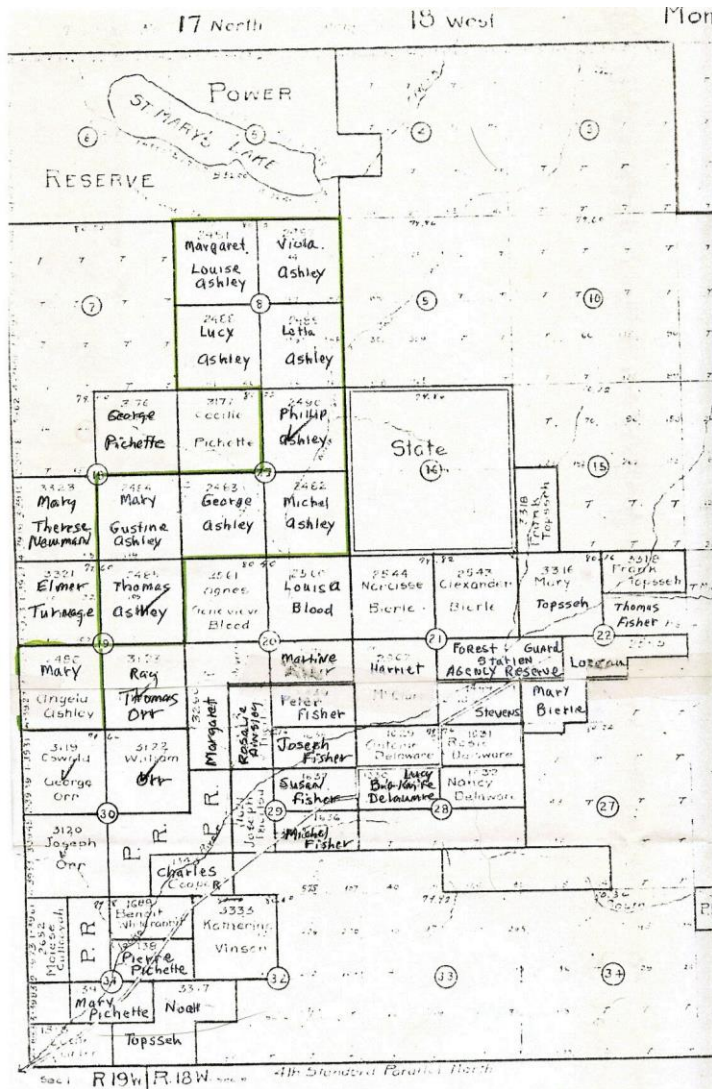
Back: Jenny Allison, Dubsy Allison, Frank Allison and Tom Ashley and in front Red and Gunny Allison. Gunny has two ears of corn with the husks pulled back.

From The St. Ignatius Post, Oct. 1926, page 4:

"Several new families have moved in the valley the past week. William Paul and family from the eastern part of the State have purchased the Charley Ashley place..."

From The Flathead Courier, Thurs., Aug. 18, 1927, p 2:

"St. Ignatius - Dean A. L. Stone and a number of university students spent Sunday in the Mission canyon make the trip to the lake at the head of Elizabeth falls, Charlie Ashley acted as guide on the trip."



Flathead Reservations tribal allotments.

From The St. Ignatius Post, Fri., Jan. 11, 1924, p5:

"The person who stole a couple of valuable saddles from the Ashleys a few days ago evidently got cold feet when they saw a reward offered. The saddles were brought back to town and left on Jesse Vincent's hitching posts. They showed evidences of having been buried in a straw stack since their disappearance."

On June 2, 1924, Momma became a citizen of the United States, when the President Calvin Coolidge signed the Indian Citizenship Act declaring native-born Indians citizens. Some State laws prevented Indians from voting until 1948!

There is a story of how Charlie was chased by two grizzlies from his place into the town of St. Ignatius, Montana. It seems that he had to ride awhile, stop and shoot, and then ride awhile, and so on. They say he was nearly into town before he had killed both grizzlies. He had a nice big black horse he called "Nig" who could do all sorts of tricks.

