

JEAN BAPTISTE BOUCHER – “An Honest Man”

To The Pacific Northwest in before 1806

by Chalk Courchane

He was the second husband of my great-great-great-grandmother, Josephite Kanhopitsa and my great-great-great-grandfather.

Jean Baptiste was born in 1759, probably in Canada, his surname Boucher pronounced "Boo-shay" and means "Butcher", some of the English pronounce it "Bough--shee". Surname variations: Boucher, Bouche, Busha, Buche.

"The name Boucher (Bouche) is so interwoven in the fur trade annals that is difficult at this late date to trace relationships with much certainty. Two main lines, which may or may not have been fraternal, develop in the Vancouver and French Prairie records. These are Jean Baptiste, born 1759 and died 1824, 'an honest man', and Baptiste 'called Wakan', who would seem also to have been born during the latter part of the 1700's. From Munnick's Catholic Church Records. Jean Baptiste Boucher called Waccan (or Wakan) was born in 1789 and died in 1850 so he was about 30 years younger than our Jean Baptiste. Waccan spent most if not all his fur trade association in the Athabasca district of Canada. Waccan was an interpreter, "policeman," provisioner, and the right hand man for a succession of Fort St. James Chief Factors. He married a Carrier Indian woman in 1811 and had a subsequent marriage to Nancy McDougall the daughter of a fur company clerk, James McDougall. They had seventeen children. This Métis who was the most influential and respected Metis west of the Rocky Mountains." *The People of the Metis Nation: A-C Metis History Through Biography*, Lawrence J. Barkwell, page 44, 2012. The Jean Baptiste Boucher referred to as with David Thompson and later in Idaho and Montana is not Waccan I am sure, but he is our ancestor.

Jean Baptiste Boucher "was past fifty years of age when he came to Ft. George as interpreter of the North West Fur Company. He took Josephite Kanhopitsa (des Chaudieres) for his wife after her abandonment by John Clarke. Josephite's daughter Josephite went by Boucher instead of her father's name Clarke, and later married John 'The McKy Rouge' McKay.

He came west with David Thompson, Jocko Finlay, and Finan McDonald, in 1808-09. Thompson writes of a Buche (Boucher). Jean Baptiste "called Wakan" Boucher, who appears in the West about the same time, but seems to have been in New Caledonia at this time with Simon Fraser and John Stuart. On Thompson's expedition into Idaho, Montana, and Washington in September 1809 from Canada, Thompson built Kullyspell House near Lake Pend d'Oreille. These were the first log houses (used as a trading post) occupied by white men that was situated west of the Rockies and south of the 49th parallel. Also these men had completed the first commercial transaction within the present state of Idaho. Lewis and Clark had bartered with the Indians for food and other things, but not for personal gain.

"October 11th 1806 -- Arrived at Riviere L'eau Claire House, found Mr. Quesnel & three men, Bolieu, La Camble & Buche all well, Indians at the House Gun Case & family &

Maijan[possibly Morigeau], about half league from the House dispatched as Horse keeper From this site the arrival of the canoes the 24th. Employed repairing the house which was [illegible] &c. Two of the men who accompanied me up returned the 13thpart of theto hunt Beavers,them 25 bales &c at an average. Engaged Maijan & Batailleur as hunters, much to the chagrin of Gun Case who wanted the employee himself, butsent several times a hunting, got home in all 2 bulls, 3 & a Maijan pitched off. Sent Bouche with them, he is in company with the English hunter. The evening before the arrival of the canoes, my Sauteaux who was with them for the purpose of killing animals arrived, unluckily the day of their arrival proved very cold & snowing very hard, got the goods & every different article in a different place, moved the bales, which proved pretty correct except a piece in place ofa mistake at Kami -- [rest omitted]

26th -- ...addressed 3 men viz. Jos. Daniel, Dumond & Foren to prepare for a trip to the mountains in search of Jacco Finlay; who went off in summer with Montour & two men, Bercier & Boulard, to make a road in the passage & to look for the Coutenaiss. Jacco was expected here in the fall or summer....

Nov. 17th -- Monday -- a very fine day. At 1 pm. Maijan men came in here with a few furs -- 6 as to the HB Hse. -- gave them also half of a large keg to drink. Beaulieu & LeBlanc with the from Mihigon.

Nov. 19th -- ...Mr. Quesnel, Jaco Finlay, Jos. Daniel, Bercier, Boulard arrived from the Mountains...."

Sure is hard to read! Nancy Anderson From Journal #18, Journal of the Rocky Mountain House Occurrences, 1806-, 7, Reel 4426.

“Boucher, Baptiste (fl. 1807-1810) (Undetermined origin) NWC Member, Pacific slopes, 1807-1810, with David Thompson Boucher (spelled Buche in the Thompson journals) was recorded on June 11, 1807, in David Thompson's journals as Thompson was about to cross the Rocky Mountains. He was probably the same Boucher who was at Rocky Mountain House, under Jules Maurice Quesnel, when Thompson arrived there on October 11, 1806. He was likely one of three contemporary Jean Baptiste Boucher entries; but his exact identity is uncertain. While his fellow voyageurs were building Kootenae House in the summer of 1807, Boucher began work on an eighteen foot wooden canoe. He stayed with Thompson until 1810, in Saleesh country, when he was sent with Finan McDonald and Michel Bourdeaux with tobacco and ammunition to persuade the Saleesh Indians to hunt and make dried provisions.” From Bruce Watson's Lives Lived.

From David Thompson's 1809 Journal (Book 23; microfilm transcripts by Jack Nisbet): David Thompson writes on Mar.10, 1809:--"A very fine day. Went & measured 2 mountains also Mt. Nelson in part but the clouds altho there seemingly were none broke abt its head--Buche a Swan & me a Swan. The later weighed 32 1/2 lb.altho not fat." That is both killed swans.

Aug.18, 1809 "..... campment of the Wild Horses...broke our canoe on a stump...to the Hoards at 10 AM where Thank God I found all well & safe--here I end taking courses--we directly set to work to open the Hoard & arrange all the Goods &C for embarking, all which we got done by 3 1/2 PM except a few things which we reserved for the evening--I embarked with Buche in a small Canoe & we set off & went on till 6 PM when we camped close below the low Point,

below the Lake--at the Hoard we also dried the things we wetted when we broke the canoe.." The Hoard was a cache of provision and goods.

From Thompson's Journal September 8 to October 11, 1809:

"September 8 - We held on SE.D. 4 or 5 M. & put up at 2-1/2 p.m.; the wind blowing too hard for the canoes to hold on. Killed 2 geese, Mr. McDonald 1 do. & Buche 1 do. Beaulieu 1 Crane & the Flatheads 3 ducks."

"September 13 - Wednesday - A fine morning, but abt. 10 a.m. heavy gale from s.w. which soon brought on a moderate rain, which lasted nearly all night. Bouche & the Chein Foux brought 2 chevrail [deer], cut & hauled wood, the needles & arranged a horse collar which broke towards evening, we then got wood for another. Spent much of the day in trading with the Indians who brought about 120 or 130 skins. Put out the fire the Indians kindled." Note: The needles Thompson refers to were pointed uprights which made the palisade that surrounded log forts or posts.

Between 1811 and 1824 the Hudson's Bay Company kept an active presence in northwest Montana. What fur forts they operated largely have been forgotten. Writings from the period indicate that the Company always maintained a trading post in the area. Flathead Post (also called the second Salish House) was established in 1823 by Alexander Ross about five miles east of Thompson Falls.

February 10, 1824, Ross, who was charged with the lucrative Snake River trade, set out from Flathead Post near Thompson Falls for a winter trapping and exploring venture. His party consisted of 140 persons, some of whom were family members of the trappers, as well as a few Iroquois Indians hired to trap and to teach trapping techniques to the local natives.

Ross's journey took him to Hell Gate Valley near Missoula, up the Bitterroot River through the Bitterroot Valley, and on March 12 to Ross's Hole (which Ross called the Valley of Troubles) near Sula. Snow was deep; temperatures were near zero; and, passage east over the densely forested hills into the Big Hole Valley was next to impossible. For a few days, Ross waited for orders to turn back. When none came, amidst grumbling and near mutiny by his men, he started working his way east (via present-day Gibbons Pass) through ten-foot-high snowdrifts with the objective of reaching the Big Hole Valley. Men threatened to desert, so Ross promised to take the clothes of any persons caught deserting. The prospect of nudity in the spring mountains amidst those ten-foot snowdrifts changed all mutinous minds.

Temperatures often ran high, but one month later, on April 14, after a fifteen-hour day of pandemonium, the group broke over the top into the Big Hole Valley. They remained in the Big Hole for twelve days enjoying the Boiling Spring at Jackson, where William Clark and nineteen of his men had camped in July of 1806.

Ross and his expedition trapped the Big Hole River and Willard's Creek - later to be known as Grasshopper Creek - and perhaps even at Bannack, the site of the first major gold strike in Montana in 1862. Ross then ventured into the Salmon River country via Lemhi Pass near Tendoy and Salmon, Idaho, and trapped that region extensively. In November of 1824 they

returned to Flathead Post with the best return ever from a brigade's expedition and from the Snake River country - over 5,000 furs. When he returned, Ross was given command of Flathead Post, and Peter Skene Ogden replaced him as the head of the Snake River trade. From "Metis Cousins" Brenda Snider

"In July, 1810, Finan McDonald.....together with Michael Bourdeaux (Michel Bourdon) and Baptiste Buche (Boucher), crossed Marias Pass with the Flathead Indians to hunt buffalo and make provisions, thus being the first white men known to have passed through that pass. They also enjoyed a lively battle with the Blackfeet east of the mountains." From EARLY FLATHEAD AND TOBACCO PLAINS, A Narrative History of Northwestern Montana -- by Marie Cuffe Shea, 1977, page 7.

From Thompson's Narrative, pp. 423-425: Thompson and his men were trading with the Flathead Indians in 1810, he wrote: "The Saleesh Indians during the winter had traded upwards of twenty guns from me, with several hundreds of iron arrowheads, with which they thought themselves a fair match for the Peeagan Indians in battle on the plains.

"In the month of July when the bison bulls are getting fat, they formed a camp of about one hundred and fifty men to hunt and make dried provisions as I had requested them, accompanied by Mr. Finan McDonald, Michel Bourdeaux, and Buche with ammunition, tobacco &C to encourage them: They crossed the mountains by a wide defile of east passage, eastward of the Saleesh Lake, here they are watched by the Peeagans to prevent them hunting the bison, and driven back, and could only hunt as it were by stealth; the case is now different, and they were determined to hunt boldly and try a battle with them.

"They were entering the grounds when the scouts, as usually, early each morning sent to view the country came riding at full speed, calling out, `The enemy is on us', instantly down went the tents, and tent poles, which with the baggage formed a rude rampart; this was barely done, when a steady charge of cavalry came on them, but the horses did not break through the rampart, part of which was pointed poles, each party discharged their arrows, which only wounded a few, none fell; a second, and a third charge was made; but in a weak manner; the battle was now to be of infantry.

"The Saleesh about one hundred and fifty men, took possession of a slightly rising ground about half a mile in front of their tents, the Peeagans, about one hundred and seventy men drew up and formed a rude line about four hundred yards in front of them; the Saleesh and the Whitemen lay quiet on the defensive; the Peeagans from time to time throughout the day, sent parties of about forty men forward, to dare them to battle; these would often approach to within sixty to eighty yards, insulting them as old women, and dancing in a frantic manner, now springing from the ground as high as they could, then close to the ground, now to the right, and to the left; in all posture; their war coats of leather hanging loose before them, their guns, or bows and arrows, or lance in their hands, the two former they sometimes discharged at their enemies with little effect.

"Buche (Boucher) who was a good shot, said they were harder to hit than a goose on the wing. When these were tired they returned and a fresh party came forward in a like manner, and thus throughout the day, the three men had several shots discharged at them, but their violent gestures prevented a steady aim in return; the three men were good shots, and as I have noticed the Indians allow no neutrals, they had to fight in their own defence. Mr. Finan McDonald fired

forty-five shots, killed two men and wounded one, the other two (Boucher and Bourdon) each fired forty-three balls, and each wounded one man; such were their wild activity, they were an uncertain mark to fire at, the evening ended the battle, on the part of the Peeagans, seven killed and thirteen wounded, no scalps were taken, which the Peeagans accounted a disgrace to them, the Saleesh set no pride on taking scalps, this was the first time the Peeagans were in a manner defeated and they determined to wreck their vengeance on the Whiteman who crossed the mountains to the west side and furnished arms and ammunition to their enemies."

From the Manitoba Dept. of Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources, Provincial Archives, Hudson's Bay Archives, dated 12 Feb 1982: "It appears that Jean Baptiste Boucher was in the service of the North West Company. His name and account for the year 1811 are recorded in the North West Company Ledger, but no further records have been traced to him in the Archives." (HBC Archives F.4/32, fo.70).

"Fall of 1813 - #17 J. Bte. Boucher - interpreter at New Caledonia Dept. (It should not be forgotten that Jean Baptiste "called Wakan" Boucher was in the area also and this probably him, although he was usually referred to as Baptiste or Wakan Boucher.) From the LIST OF MEN IN THE COLUMBIA FOR WINTER 1813/14, North West Company Employees, extracted from HBC Archives F.4/61, fos.6-7d:

Jean Baptiste Boucher was a part of or may have been a part of the following Snake country expeditions:

1809 - 1810: he was the "Baptiste Buche" with David Thompson.

1811 - 1818: he was with Jocko Finlay or Finan McDonald

In late November, 1811 - John George MacTavish and James McMillan with 15 men, 10 horses, and 1-1/2 tons of trade merchandise, arrived at Spokane House.

In late August, 1812 - John Clarke of Astoria arrived at Spokane House with 3 clerks, 21 Canadians, 6 Kanakas, and an Indian guide. He built a post a half-mile from Spokane House.

1817 - 1821: led by Donald "Perpetual Motion" McKenzie

1821 - 1823: led by Finan McDonald

1823 - 1824: led by Alexander Ross

Boucher, Jean Bte. -- 1811-1817, Ft. des Prairies book, note at bottom says "gone with Indians." Northwest Company Ledgers, 1811-1821, Reels 5M7 and 5M8, HBCA, from Nancy Anderson.

Jean Baptiste Boucher's last trading and trapping expedition was Alexander Ross' 1824 Snake Country Expedition. Following is an account of that expedition:

Two accounts are used in this brief on Alexander Ross' journey, *The Fur Hunters of the Far West*, Alexander Ross, edited by Kenneth A. Spalding, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1956 and *Flatead and Kootenay - The Rivers, the Tribes, and the Region's Traders*, Olga Weydemeyer Johnson, The Arthur H. Clark Co., Glendale, 1969.

Alexander Ross wrote:

"At Spokane House I remained but a few days. Instead of my complement of eighty men, I could only muster forty, and of that small number, many of them were questionable. With these however, I left on the 12th of November and proceeded up Flathead River (Clark's Fork) to the post of that name (Flathead House or Post), situated at the foot of the mountains. There I remained for some time and picked up fourteen more making my party, including myself, in all 55 persons, each of which had to be fitted out according to his capacity as a hunter with a gun, from two to four horses, and from six to ten steel traps besides clothing and ammunition, and generally on credit. With this number I made preparations for setting out on my expedition.

"On assembling my people I smiled at the medley, the variety of accents of dresses, habits, and ideas; but above all, at the confusion of languages in our camp in which were two Americans, seventeen Canadians, five half-breeds from the east side of the mountains, twelve Iroquois, two Abanakee (Anenaki) Indians from Lower Canada, two natives from Lake Nepissing (Nipissing), one Saultman (Chippewa) from Lake Huron, two Crees from Athabasca, one Chinook, two Spokanes, two Kouttannois (Kootenais), three Flatheads, two Callispellums (either Pend d'Oreille or Kalispel), one Palooche (Palouse), and one Snake slave! Five of the Canadians were above sixty years of age, and two were on the wrong side of seventy."

"In summing up however, we must not forget that twenty-five of the party were married and several of the youngsters carried guns; so that in our camp there were exclusive of the men twenty five women and sixty four children. The rest of the equipment consisted of seventy-five guns, a brass three pounder, two hundred and twelve beaver traps, and three hundred and ninety horses, together with a good stock of powder and ball and some trading articles."

Among the group were Josephthe Kanhopitsa, Josephthe Clarke, Elizabeth Boucher, and Jean Baptiste Boucher, Jr.

"On half, perhaps two-thirds of the people I had under my command were more expert at the bow and arrow than at the use of the beaver trap, more accustomed to indolence and free will than to subordination.

"This party being now ready, we left the Flathead and proceeded on our journey. By starting in the depth of winter less difficulty was experienced in providing for so many people. Our camp with all its defects appeared at a little distance somewhat formidable. The whole cavalcade when in marching order presented a line of a mile or more in length. Having made about eight miles and killing only one deer for we had to depend upon our guns for our supper, that small animal proved but a slender repast for a hundred thirty-seven hungry mouths."

Ross took the brigade up the Clark's Fork to Wild Horse Plains, (or Horse Plains near Flathead Post) still later to be known as Plains. En route south from "Prairie de Cheveaux", here he turned north using a well-known Indian trail, which "generally paralleled the current route of State 28 connecting the towns of Plains and Hot Springs. Near the Camas Prairie. Thompson - The Saleesh House Period 1807-1812 - Sometimes Only Horses to East", Carl W. Haywood, Stoneydale Press (Rockman's Trading Post, Inc., 2008, page 47). The party camped at Camas Prairie, where they dined on 6 deer, "so we had a better supper and we required it for we had passed two days on only one light meal. The following day we passed the crossing place....." "Near the Camas Prairie Cutoff road near the outlet of Dog Lake (now

Rainbow Lake) at mile post 9.2 Ross and his party turned back to the river turned back to the southwest. The prairie over which they traveled back to the river is clearly viewed to your right at milepost 13 while driving towards Hot Springs. Within a few miles they arrived back at the Flathead River near the location of the present day Perma, about twenty miles east of the confluence of the Flathead and Clark's Fork Rivers. Due to the terrain, they most likely came to the river's edge about a quarter mile east of the present bridge." (Haywood, pages 47-48.) There he left the main branch of the Flathead River, where it makes a quick bend to the N.W. to the lake of that name. Passing the sites of the future towns of Dixon and Ravalli, Montana. He then followed up what is called Jacques Fork (Jocko River), they camped at Riviere aux Marons (Finley Creek) or Wild Horse River." Here Ross and his party were to see the ruins of a dwelling, which Ross thought were left by Howse in 1810, but it was probably the ruins of Jocko Finley's cabin built by him when he was in that area. From here over Evaro pass and down into the Missoula Valley.

Olga Johnson writes, "Near present-day Ravalli they killed a couple of wild horses for meat and were obliged as usual to pay the Flatheads 'four skins Indian currency' per horse. They then proceeded to Hell Gate and the Bitterroot Valley." Which Ross called the "Valley of Racine aux Mere, or Spetlam country". Game was more abundant here, and they were well fed at this stage of the journey.

"Once in the Missoula Valley, Ross and his brigade crossed the Clark's Fork then followed the Bitterroot River up the valley to the south to a point near present day Sula." Haywood, p-48.

Johnson continues, "The Iroquois were always conspiring to go off hunting and trapping and trading on their own. Many of them had been Christianized in Canada; Ross said when he heard them singing hymns together of an evening, he knew well that trouble was brewing."

Ross writes, "During some days past, the weather had been very severe so that many of the old as well as young got severely frost-bitten on the fingers, noses, cheeks, and feet." In the mountains to the east the party ran into such deep snow that for days on end they worked their way yard by yard by driving each horse a few jumps ahead of the last one to break a trail. "...one man on snowshoes took the foremost horse by the bridle, while another applied the whip to urge the animal on; when it had made several plunges forward, it got fatigued so there we left it in the snow, but the head and ears above the surface.

"A Second was then whipped up alongside of the first, and urged forward, making several plunges, still farther on, and then it lay in the snow, some six or seven yards ahead of the other. The third did the same, and soon till the last: when nothing was to be seen of our eighty horses but a string of heads and ears above the snow!" In 9 hours only 580 yards was made the first day, the next day 370 yards, and similar distances each day afterwards. The delay went on for agonizing weeks, with Ross at one time forestalling a key man, John Grey, from desertion by threatening him at pistol point. "Trouble-some Iroquois were sent on a buffalo hunt; and the fresh meat, and the festive fiddling of a Canadian, put some heart into the company," writes Johnson. The men worked ahead of the horses with shovels and mallets, breaking and clearing snow to make a road. It was April 15 when they finally made their way through to the other side

of Gibbons Pass to a more open country. In the spring the expedition weathered repeated encounters and clashes with the Blackfeet, then they crossed into Idaho for the summer.

Ross wrote, "The weather until this day during the present month has been extremely cold, I should suppose not less than 15 below zero on Fahrenheit's thermometer, weather for blankets, mittens, and leather coats!"

Once into the Big Hole, the party turned back to the west into Idaho across Lemhi Pass along the route followed by Lewis and Clark." Haywood, p48.

The travel through present day Idaho state was one of gloom, beaver were trapped, Blackfeet contended with, and the provisions were low and stomachs were usually empty. Ross wrote, "...charming prospect of six elk and seventeen small deer coming into camp at once filled a starving and dissatisfied people with abundance. So that for the first time during the last twenty-five days I witnessed a smile of content throughout the camp."

They crossed Idaho and were returning towards Flathead Post, when Jean Baptiste Boucher became very ill. As they were going up the Lemhi River, Ross wrote, "The season having now arrived that I was to have sent to meet the Iroquois, who left us on the 16th of June, on leaving Canoe Point I dispatched six men to the Trois Tetons, south of Goddin's River, the appointed rendezvous, while we proceeded on our journey in order to trap and make provisions for our voyage home, having appointed a place near the headwaters of the Missouri where we were all to meet again.

"On the third day after starting Jean Baptiste Bouche, one of the aged fur men, died in his sixtieth year. He had been ailing for some time, and for the last ten days had to be carried about in a litter. The deceased was a quiet, sober, and industrious man. We buried him in our camp and burned the grave over so that no enemy might disturb his remains, and near the spot stands a small friendly tree bearing the inscription of his name, age, with the date of his death."

Jean B. Boucher was probably closer to the age of 65 years, according to various dates of his birth. The date was October 12, 1824 when he died. In his journal Alexander Ross, stated that he had been ill for 20 days instead of the 10 he recorded in his book, written many years later, he also referred to him as an "honest man."

From "Journal of Alexander Ross Snake Country Expedition, 1824" Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society, vol.14, p-366 (Dec.1913) T.C. Elliott:

In Idaho Ross writes: " Tuesday, 12 Oct. This morning after an illness of twenty days during which we carried him on a stretcher died Jean Bat Boucher, aged 65, an honest man."

"Ross entered Idaho from Montana country and made his way westward across Idaho, arriving in the Boise Valley in the summer of 1824.....Alexander Ross returned eastward and northward through southern Idaho. He trapped the Lemhi, Salmon, Lost, and Wood Rivers, reached Flathead Post, in the present Montana, in late November, 1824." From History of the State of Idaho, Cornelius James Brosnan, pp. 65-66.

"Despite various alarms in a country of previous Indian trouble, the expedition lost but two members neither to hostile action. A few days from the outset, `Antoine Valle's boy died' and near the close of the hunt `this morning after an illness of twenty days during which we carried him on a stretcher died Jean Ba't Boucher, aged 65, an honest man." The Mountain Men, Vol. 7, "Francois Rivet", p. 240.

He had two children with Josephthe Kanhopitsa:

1. Jean Baptiste Boucher, Jr. born in 1819 and Elizabeth "Isabelle" Boucher, both were born at the Foot of the Lakes, British Columbia, Canada. Jean Baptiste, Jr. was baptized many years later on December 6, 1846 at St. Louis Mission, Marion Co., Oregon Territory.

From the "Revised Fort Colville Employee List", Bruce M. Watson (1997), p3:
"Boucher/Bouche, Baptiste native apprentice 1841-44"

1844 tax book of Oregon shows: Baptiste Busha with horses valued at \$30.00 & Hogs at \$20.00. He paid tax of \$.56. It also shows a James and a Francois Busha.

The 6 December, 1846, we undersigned missionary of the Company of Jesus have baptized J. Baptiste Bouche, adult. Godfather Gedeon Senecal, godmother Isabelle Wollan (Wakan, Humperville)."

2. Elizabeth Boucher was born at the Foot of the Lakes in British Columbia in about 1821. She married Joseph Barnaby (Barnabe) at St. Paul Mission, Oregon Territory on November 12, 1839. They were to have at least 13 children.

From Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest - Munnick:

"This 12 November, 1839, we priest undersigned have baptized Isabelle, aged 18 years, natural daughter of the late Jean Baptiste Boucher, and of Josephthe, infidel Indian woman. Godfather Andre Picard, Godmother Marie Okanogan, who have not known how to sign.
F.N. Blanchet, priest, V.G."

She was present when her father, Jean Baptiste Boucher, died in June of 1824 somewhere in Idaho, while on a HBC expedition to trap beaver. Isabelle (Elizabeth), her sister, Josephthe, and her brother, Jean Baptiste were all taken under the care of Joachim Hubert when he married their mother, Josephthe Kanhopitsa Boucher.

Elizabeth's marriage record reads:

M-2

"This 12 November, 1839, in view of the dispensation of one ban granted by us missionary, and the publication of two others, between Joseph Barnabe, domiciled in this place, legitimate son of Francois Barnabe and of Francoise Dagneau, of Montreal, in Canada, on one part, and Isabelle Boucher, domiciled in this place, natural daughter of the late Jean Baptiste Boucher and of Josephthe of Colville, on the other part, nor having discovered any impediment, we priest undersigned missionary of the Columbia, have received their mutual consent of marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction in presence of Andre Picard and of Hyacinthe

Lavigueur, witnesses, before whom the said spouses have recognized as their legitimate child
Adelaide, aged 1 year. The witnesses as well as the spouses have not known how to sign.
F.N.Blanchet, priest, V.G."