

William Peone (Pion)

In the Pacific Northwest by 1816

By Chalk Courchane

William Peone was born about 1806 or earlier, his father's name was William "Sea-al" Peone, a French-Canadian, and his mother Quichinemalese of the Spokane tribe. Some writers give his parents as Louis Pion and Okanagan Native Mary "Sukomelk," I disagreed with them. You'll see why I do later in this piece.

Hudson's Bay Company Work Sheet:

"Name: Pion (Peon), William Parish: Native Entered Service: ca. 1828 (B.223/g/2, fo.13d)

Dates: b.ca.1815. (If this is true he would have been 13 years old as an apprentice)

Appointments & Service Outfit Year*: Position: Post: District: HBCA Reference:

*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May

1828-1831	Apprentice Thompson River	B.223/g/2, fo.13d; B.239/1/3
1831-1837	Columbia	B.223/d/105, fo.384
1837-1838	discharged Fort Vancouver	B.223/g/4; B.239/1/8, fo.83
1838-1840	Middleman Thompson River	B.223/g/5; B.239/g/19, fo.74
1840-1842	Middleman Colvile	B.223/g/6; B.239/g/20; B.239/1/12
1842-1843	Settler Williamette	B.223/g/7

Filename: Pion (Peon), William (b.ca.1815) (fl.ca.1828); CO 2002 October (http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/biographical/p/pion-peon_william.pdf)

"William Pion joined the HBC in approximately 1828 and had a career that spanned both the fur trade and gold rush. After the fur trade, he worked as a guide, packer and linguist. His family adopted the name "Kalamalka" which, according to a local native linguist, is actually

"Taramalka" meaning "round hill at the head of long lake." (Bruce Watson.) If it was kalamalka: Lake Kalamalka has the fish species: Lake trout, Rainbow trout, Cutthroat trout, Burbot and Kokanee. Kalamalka Lake (aka "Kal Lake") is a large lake in the Interior Plateau of southern central British Columbia, Canada, east of Okanagan and approximately 4 kilometres (2.5 mi) south of Vernon. The lake is named for the Okanagan (Okanogan U.S. spelling) Indian chief who occupied its northern shores. At different times of the year the color of the lake can range from cyan to indigo, in different spots at the same time. The color of the water is derived from light scattering, caused by the precipitation of calcite (CaCO₃). Kalamalka Lake is a glacial that flows into the well-known Okanagan.) From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

HBC Native apprentice, Thompson River (1828-1836)

Middleman, Thompson River (1836-1837)

Discharged, Fort Vancouver (1837-1838)

Middleman, Thompson River (1838-1841)

Middleman, Fort Colvile (1840-1842)

1840

Archie McDonald wrote from Walla Walla to Samuel Black at Kamloops on June 5, 1840:
"On safely landing here this morning we were handed a packet from Mr. McLoughlin of 13th ult. containing with other papers the enclosed letter by which you will see all three anticipated him as to the summer arrangement's; further remarks on this head are unnecessary. We thought it

advisable to send back William Pion ... As it is likely you will be sending him to OK (Okanogan) soon after his arrival, have the goodness to order Thomas Flett to make up 6 elk skins to take down for Mr. Ogden. If there is no gum at Okanogan, Gingras ought to get a little ready for the Colville Boats by the time they return, as we find Mr. McL. puts in requisition all I brought down this summer. (Jean Gingras (1802-1856) he married Charlotte Skealks (Striped Dress) Okanogan (1805-1845), and Olive Forcier on July 28, 1845 at St. Paul Mission, Marion Co., Oregon. From Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest, Vancouver volumes I & II, Mikell De Lores Wormell Warner & Harriet Duncan Munnick, French Prairie Press, St. Paul, Oregon, 1972, page A-31: "Jean Gingras (I) "A handy man", Governor Simpson recorded in 1828. "more interested for the service in the absence than before his superiors". All Gingras' years of service were spent at inland posts between the Rockies and the Cascades. In 1841 he rose to the position of Post Master at Fort Okanogan. Within a few years he retired to French Prairie, taking a claim on the river west of the Mission of St. Paul. embracing a part of Horseshoe Lake. After the death of his wife, Charlotte Okanogan, he married Olive Forcier. He is buried in the Old Cemetery at St. Paul, where no markers remain.")

..In the afternoon another packet cast up from the Dr. announcing that Mr. Lee & the Wallamette ship came in on 23rd. There is about 24 preachers & other subjects for that mission ... Tomorrow morning, God willing, we make a start. The water is remarkably high & not yet at its height." From "This Blessed Wilderness - Archibald McDonald's Letters from the Columbia, 1822-1844" edited by Jean Murray Cole, UBC Press, Vancouver/Toronto, 2001, page 155.

Archie wrote on January 4, 1841 from Fort Colville to Chief Factor John McLoughlin at Fort Vancouver:

"With regard to the men ... exclusive of P. Martineau & Jacques, Bouts, three hands will leave us for below early in the spring, & the Guide for the same direction with the Brigade, leaving but two Bouts for the district when at least six are required. In my last I informed you that Alexis Martineau had joined Brown, and since, that other hopeful youth, William Pion recommenced his old practices & is off to the Indian camp with his relations ever since 5th November ... To have to do with so many of these idle and unprincipled vagrants is truly provoking..." From "This Blessed Wilderness - Archibald McDonald's Letters from the Columbia 1822-44" edited by Jean Murray Cole, UBC Press, Vancouver/Toronto, 2001, page 167.

Archie writes to Chief Factor John McLoughlin on February 17, 1841 from Fort Colville:

"Very unexpectedly & under the most painful circumstances I am this soon again called upon to address you: poor Mr. Black is no more! He was most barbarously cut off from this world in his own house [Kamloops] on the evening of the 8th Inst. by a single Indian belonging to the place. The melancholy news reached me here tonight thro [Jean] Gingras who had it from [Joachim] Lafleur. For the lamentable affair no direct cause can be assigned, unless it could be traced to the sudden death of one of their rascally Chiefs, Tranquille. This Indian in course of the summer applied to the deceased for a gun in the fort, which he said the owner, a North River Indian, had made over to him; a request that could not be complied with without a more convincing proof of the fact. In January he again applied. prior to his setting out for the Pavilion on Fraser River, with the same success, when I believe some angry words ensued. At the Pavilion he soon fell ill and died five days after. Pending his illness it was rumored among the Indians & insidiously propagated by their vile conjurors that, if he did not recover his death must be ascribed to the base medicine of the whites & revenged. After the death of the vagabond, word came that much of the good feeling of the Indians would depend on the Whites to see him buried. Immediately on receipt of the news from the Pavilion & of this message, poor Mr. Black lost no time in sending two men, Edouard & [Michel] Fallardeau, to assist at the burying of him, & it would appear that the same morning, after passing the family encampment of Tranquille a few miles lower down,

the murderer his nephew left it, & arrived at the fort about noon without any visible arms about him. He remained smoking in the hall the whole afternoon in company with two other young men from a different quarter. [Alexis] Laprade was that day occupied in the cellar under the hall flooring, overhauling some potatoes, & Mr. B frequently passed & repassed conversing with him from above. At length the two young men left the assassin, he telling them that it being too cold for him to go home, he proposed sleeping in the fort. About that time the deceased made another turn out, came in by a back door, walked thro the hall to get into his own room & while in the act of stepping in was shot by the villain from alongside the chimney not two yards off, behind which must have been secreted the fatal instrument. Laprade, still below, on hearing the report, called 'aux armes' but before any effectual assistance could appear the fellow was off. The Ball with a quantity of Beaver shot entered the small of the back & came out below the chest - poor unhappy man never spoke a word after! Laprade tho much excited and under great alarm put everything in the best posture he could & on the morning of the 10th sent off [Joachim] Lafleur.

It now remains for me to say what measures I am about taking myself in so calamitous a case. Messrs. McLean & McPherson start immediately with 7 men by way of Okanagan & will I trust be with Laprade in about 10 days. Unfortunately there is a great deal of livestock & of one thing or another far too much at the mercy of the Indians should they be disposed to give further annoyance. My directions to Mr. McLean are, in the first place to endeavor to pacify the Natives & smooth over any present difficulties that may be in the way, without pledging himself to a compromise ... And then in the customary way to set about removing everything to Okanagan except the horses & provisions that may be required for N. Caledonia. After that, I think Mr. McPherson with the ten men belonging to the place can stand his ground until Mr. Ogden is out. The moment Edouard would be back he was to be sent to Alexandria and as the Gentleman attached to the Chilkotin is I think wintering with with Mr. Tod, it is likely he will himself [Tod] come to Kamloops. In that case our people will be directed by him & I will take the liberty of suggesting to him, if need be, to remain there himself until further orders from you or Mr. Ogden. Mr. McLean with his people I direct to be back here if possible by the 20th March, the usual time for starting the plains expedition.

The body of our lamented friend will not be interred before our people or Mr. Tod gets there. Nicolas & a few good staunch Indians had already rallied around Laprade, I am in hopes, tho the case already is sufficiently distressing, nothing more of a serious nature will overtake us. P.S. The news has spread about here now among the Natives and is productive of considerable excitement, but I do not apprehend it will lead to anything serious in this quarter." From "This Blessed Wilderness - Archibald McDonald's Letters from the Columbia, 1822-1844" edited by Jean Murray Cole, UBC Press, Vancouver/Toronto, 2001, pages 169-170.

and on pages 170-171 Archie wrote to Donald McLean on February 18, 1841:

After various consultations we have already had on the melancholy catastrophe at Thompson's River & the probable cause which led to it, I shall merely suggest for your guidance that, on arrival there with Mr. McPherson & the 7 men now accompanying you hence, your first care will be to try & smooth over existing difficulties & ease the minds of the natives as much as you can, which on an occasion like the present must unavoidably be much excited; but let this be done in a manner so not to pledge ourselves to any great sacrifice of compromise of the past. Then you will in the usual way set about removing the furs & livestock to Okanagan, in a manner so as not

to excite any great alarm, as, on account of New Caledonia it is necessary that the post should be kept up until Mr. Ogden is out safely. And for this purpose, after you are satisfied that no serious danger is to be apprehended, Mr. McPherson & the ten men attached to the Establishment will occupy it till then. The provisions & goods can be left with them in case Mr. O. may conceive it desirable to send them on to Alexandria.

It being in contemplation when Lafleur left Kamloops to send for Mr. Tod, you will in all probability find that Gentlemen there; if so, you will of course be guided by his directions, always bearing in mind the necessity for your being here with your people if possible by 20th March.

So many of our most efficient horses being now put in requisition; you will on return from OK (Okanogan) bring along here 10 to 12 good ones. An inventory of course will be taken at Thompson on your arrival, & could in conveniently be done, an Indian ought to be sent to us express with an account of the state of affairs there. The New Caledonia packet will I think be out by the time you reach Kamloops: it & the accounts of the district itself, so far as you can find them above, might be sent to us across from the OK forks, & the Gentlemen coming up with the Boats will bring on what will be necessary from Okanagan.

The following is a list of the Thompson's River men viz:

1. Laprade
2. Martineau
3. Gilbeault
4. l'Ecuyer
5. Fallardeau
6. Edouard
7. Robiard
8. Igniace
9. Baptiste, the porkeater
10. Martelle do [ditto]
11. Joyalle, Laprade's son
12. Lafleur - to return with you from OK

William Pion, one of the 7 from here [and] Baptiste, his brother, both go up to remain [there].

Besides this, Gobin will go up with you from OK - he, Laprade, Martineau and l'Ecuyer will come back with you, with the furs, horses &c.&c. still leaving above, excluding the Pions, ten men ... The family & property of the deceased will come down in charge of Laprade. The pigs & goats dispose of as you may think proper, that the people in the fort may have nothing to look after but themselves & the defence of the place. The New Caledonia horses and any others that it may be necessary to keep at hand will be best in charge of Nicolas at the Big Prairie.

Wishing you every safety & success." (McPherson brought Black's widow and three small children down from Colvile on 19 February.)

"Joseph LaFleur was asked:

Question. Did you ever know of Samuel Black? Answer. Oh, yes I knew of Black. He was killed at Kamloops by an Indian. My father was there at the time and I was there too. I was a very young boy then but I was old enough to know that Black was killed. It was a man by the name of William Peon that went out and got the Indian, afterwards the Indian was killed. (Oregon Historical Society, Volume XV, March, 1914 Number 1, 1914, by Oregon Historical Society, Old Fort Okanogan and the Okanogan Trail, William C. Brown.)

Archie McDonald wrote on September 19, 1841 from Fort Colville to Archibald McKinley at Walla Walla:

"Your old friend Mr. Sinclair will be upon you a few days sooner than I led you to expect. For various reasons I am anxious that the party should go down without delay and with this in view have accommodated them with about 20 horses that will go on till they meet yours. Should William Pion be obliged to continue the route to Walla Walla our horses will not immediately on their return be in a fit condition to commence another trip & yet another & a much more arduous one is in contemplation the moment Mr. Manson arrives here requiring at least 15 horses. It is an expedition to Thompson River [to hunt down Black's murderer] ... do endeavour to send by Pion 10 good horses & charge them either to this place or Thompson River. Arms, ammunition, tobacco &c &c being necessarily required for such a turn out I direct my 2 men if they go so far to bring on the 5 pieces at your place - say a case of Guns, a Roll tobacco, 1 Keg powder & two Bags Ball ..." From "This Blessed Wilderness - Archibald McDonald's Letters from the Columbia, 1822-1844" edited by Jean Murray Cole, UBC Press, Vancouver/Toronto, 2001, and on page 192.

and on page 201 Archie McDonald wrote on January 18, 1842 at Fort Colville to James Douglas at Fort Vancouver:

(I included the whole letter so the events at that time could be known.)

"It is now about the time I usually make up our winter communication for you below & most cheerfully would I do so now did I see the prospect of a canoe getting to W.W. (Walla Walla) The snow early in the winter set in hereabouts exceedingly severe. Mr. [James] Sinclair joined us 17th of last month, after taking seven days to do the 55 miles from the [Tshimakain] mission to here. On 28th he recommenced his journey as well arranged as it was possible to be, accompanied by LaGrisse, his own Indian & another from here ... even with the help of the tree extra Indians, [their progress] became exceedingly slow & indeed the journey altogether hopeless ... at the end of the fifth day were again back to us ...

...I had official orders to send [LaGrisse] off from here in the spring with 35 or 40 of our horses for the height of land that would ultimately be driven on to Edmonton. Now as regards to horses, I wish to be definitely understood that we have no such bands at our disposal here, & that I very much fear from the loss already sustained scarcely enough will live to see the spring of our own indispensable duties ...

We had Mr. Cameron also with us for a few days from T.R. (Kamloops) He left that place with 2,000 salmon for OK (Okanogan) about 7th Decr. & arrived here 27th after a very tedious & harassing trip of it ... sometime with horses, then by water & finally on snowshoes ...

Mr. McPherson with the Flathead people was lucky enough to get home before the snow was too deep. His collection of furs, considering everything, is pretty fair: the Beaver are within a few to the number of last year & the amount of all the furs from that quarter rather better, notwithstanding the loss on freemen's hunt ... In grease ... woefully short ..[because of supplying] the new missionaries .. His two men Brouillet & Leclair go out, they are refused their freedom, Lafentasia, Wacon & Pion take it. Neither is little Pierre yet settled with, & Joachim & old Pierre are fairly done up; Canote however thinks himself able enough to serve another year. You will therefore have the goodness, as far as possible, to place 4 or 5 good hands at my disposal by the Express Boats ...

..Mr. DeSmet, who was down to us for supplies in the month of Novr. wished our requisition to include the value of 30 pieces for them, but however willing we may be to accommodate those good people in ordinary matters, I distinctly say that so far as depends upon myself, I do not wish to have anything of their supplies, & this I candidly told the Rev. Gentleman himself. We loaded 14 horses for him here, principally in provisions & field seed & he left us 400 dollars in Specie to meet that & future demands. He speaks of being down this way again about the middle of April to proceed to Vancouver by the first conveyance that may then offer. (Archie McDonald was sometimes rude to Father DeSmet and I don't think he really cared for the Catholic priests but on the other hand he fell all over himself to accommodate the Protestants Walker and Eels.

Enclosed is a list of the few things we absolutely require per the Express Boats ... I shall expect to be allowed one Boat exclusively for the conveyance of a threshing mill this way next summer ..."

and on page 216 Archie McDonald writes from Fort Colville on May 30, 1842 to:
"Messrs. Ogden and Manson, Okanagan

"As to the men, I suppose I must trust to chance as usual. Three of our best Canadians went out this spring, & three of our Native engages will be independent tomorrow. That famous man William Pion is at length free, now in possession of a stock of horned cattle obtained from the Red River settlers & a precious scoundrel he will make. He this moment came in to me to ask a passage to the Willamette which I knew to be a mere fetch in order to get his family to Okanagan."

and on page 217 Archie wrote to Chief Factor John McLoughlin at Fort Vancouver on June 8, 1842 from Fort Colville:

"Yesterday morning a confused report thru Indians reached us of the melancholy fate of our poor people, which but too truly was confirmed by authentic accounts from OK (Okanogan) this morning. It is a most lamentable case, & apart from what we must all feel as fellow men, one that is likely to have the effect of increasing our difficulties here. By a glance at the names of the men equipped for this district last year, they will now be found 13 less [including those assigned elsewhere], namely: Canote Umphreville, P. Martineau, D. Flett, H. Brouillet, C. Robiard, T. LeClair, W. Pion, C. Lafentasia, Wacon Umphreville, P. Lajoie, Ant. Duquette, Joachim Hubert, Phillipe Desgrais ... "

"In outfit 1842-1843 he became a settler in the Willamette River valley." Bruce Watson

The following baptism shows William Peone's parents:

"Ego baptizavi Wilham Pion, natum 39 circiter annos ex William Pion et Quichinamalese Spokane. Patrinus fuit Nazaire Dupre Canadensia In Prato Bellevue die 16th April 1845. N. Point, S.J." Sacred Heart Mission, Idaho Baptism Book, page 31, no. 383.

He married April 16, 1845 to Julie (LaRock) Larocque who was born about 1812. She was baptism the same day as her wedding. She was the daughter of Joseph Felix Larocque and Suntutalex(sp?).

Sacred Heart Mission, Idaho Baptism Book, page 31, no. 383:

"Ego baptizavi Juliam Koulpitse, natum 33 circiter annos ex LaRock et Suntutalex(sp?) Okinagan. Matrina fuit Catharina Lafantaisie In Prato Bellevue die 16th April 1845. N. Point, S.J."

Marriage Book:

Shows that on April 16, 1845 William Peone, metis Spokane married Julia Koulsoitse(sp) Okinagan. Witness Jean Baptiste Ma-----? and L----?" "In territories Bellevue" Father Joset, S.J.

He also married Sophia? And Esther Nikola.

From Elkanah Walker's Diary, Drury, page 321: August 1845:

"Thursday 21. It rained hard all night & quite late this morning, so did not start till late this morning & was hindered a long time at William's [Peone] in getting the young horse but I made a good day after all." William lived a few miles from Fort Colville.

and in September 1845:

"Thursday 24. I awoke this morning & found it snowing .. We were somewhat tried to find that the McPherson's horses with some of ours were gone & could not be found till near night. .. I sold Wm. Pion a yearling calf & was mistaken in the animal I was I was to have. If I had known, I should not have traded. "

From "First White Women Over the Rockies," Drury, Arthur H. Clark Co., Glendale, CA. vol.II, page 337 (Diary of Mary Walker - 1848) - "Thurs. 9 (1848) ... William Peone's mother called. Wishes garden seed."

1850 US Oregon Territory Census:

William Pion	age 38	farmer	\$1500	O.T.
Julie	"	30		O.T.
Bazile	"	12		O.T.
Marie	"	11		O.T.

"William Peone's age is given as 38 years in 1850 and 64 years in 1880. This puts his birthdate between 1812 and 1816. The 1850 census puts his real property as \$1500.00.(US Census (7th) Oregon Territory, Marion County, 1850 (1 Feb. 1851).

The William Peone on both census returns appears to be the same person, but note that the wives given are different, which is not an uncommon occurrence, and also the children have the same names although their ages are thirty years apart! For succeeding wives of the early trappers to pick the same names as a previous wife is also not uncommon. Remember 30 years lapsed between, and the second wife may not have even known of the earlier children (But is this a stretch? Some of the old trappers had so many children they sometimes forgot their Christian names over a long period of time. These are my reasons for assuming these two families may belong to the same William Peone, but further research may prove me wrong."

1850: William age 38
1880: William age 64

1850: Julie age 30 wife
1880: Mary age 40 wife

1850: Bazille age 12 son
1880: Bauzil age 6 son

1850: Marie age 11 daughter
1880: Mary Jr. age 9 daughter"

"In 1852 he settled a claim of 319 acres in Walla Walla County." Bruce Watson.

From "Jesuits and the Indian Wars of the Northwest" Robert Ignatius Burns, S.J., page 113: William Peone. He was interpreter at Gov. Isaac Stevens 1855 Council with the Spokanes.

"Members of the Coeur d' Alene, Colville and Upper Spokane bands gathered on December 4, 1855, to meet with Isaac Stevens and talk about the war between the Yakimas and the Americans, and their own concerns about land issues. Heavy snow was falling. The Governor addressed those present by way of introduction, with William Peon serving as interpreter along with others present who understood the Salish language, and were requested to observe that the speeches on either side were correctly reported. The gist of Stevens' words that day was that he was a friend who could be counted on. He wanted to wait until the Lower Spokanes arrived before he formally addressed the assembly."

<http://stories.washingtonhistory.org/treatytrail/treaties/timeline/failedspokane.htm>

From St. Regis Mission, Meyers Falls, WA., Baptismal Records 1852-1866:

He and Julia are shown as godparents in the baptism of Pierre Matthieu son of Louis & Marie Matthieu on 8 July 1855 at St. Paul Mission. No. 92.

Also in the records are the baptism of Louise Marie Monique Ulelem Smolemen (illegitimate) daughter of Dominic Ulelem Smolemen & Marie Rosa Pion on 12 May 1861 at St. Paul Mission, Washington by Father Joseph Joset, S.J.

"In 1858 he became a packer for miners and in July of that year narrowly escaped with his life in an attack at McLaughlin Canyon in Washington Territory. He received a serious scalp wound." Bruce Watson

See below for detail of the McLaughlin fight: Indian Ambush at McLaughlin Canyon by Francis Wolff

Only a handful of accounts of the McLaughlin Canyon ambush have come to light. One of the least known is Francis Wolff's. The McLaughlin party consisting of one hundred and sixty seven men miners, traders, and packers started from Walla Walla in the year 1858 about the 20th day of July for the new discovered gold fields on the Thompson and Fraser River. They elected (David McLaughlin) as Commander (Son of Dr. McLaughlin of Oregon City). The discovery was made by William Peon and a Indian Chief of the Fraser River Indians on a small creek running in Thompson River about 10 miles above its mouth called the Necoman Creek. In the year 1857 Peon brought some five hundred dollar's worth of dust in the Colville Valley of which he disposed, to F. Wolff and J.T. Demers whom were doing mercantile business at said place. He gave such flattering account of the richness and the great quantities of gold amongst the Indians that the firm concluded to fit out a (indecipherable). (David McLoughlin [1821-1903] had a short career in the fur trade. In 1834 he was sent to live with his uncle in Paris to become an engineer and perhaps go to India for his career. He returned in 1839, having passed his exams but his father [Dr. John McLoughlin, Chief Factor of the Columbia Department for the Hudson's Bay Company] had second thoughts about sending him to India and took him on as apprentice clerk at the fort. In 1843 he is noted as working in the fort's retail store and in September of 1844 he was instrumental in helping to put out a fire that could have destroyed Fort Vancouver. However, he resigned in 1845 ostensibly to look after his father's affairs in the Willamette but, being swept up by the gold fever of the time, hired Indians to work for him and managed to acquire about \$20,000 in gold dust. In 1846, he briefly went to San Francisco to wrap up the Company affairs there. On March 15, 1847 he was reported to have entered into partnership with two prosperous American merchants, Mr. Pettygrove and Mr. Wilson of Oregon City. He eventually moved to Port Hill, Idaho, near the Canadian boundary and lived in a semi-secluded state where he was close to nature. In June 14, 1901 he was noted as being in Portland at a celebration for Oregon Pioneers. He died two years later.

(http://ubc.bcmetis.ca/hbc_bio_profile.php?id=MjEwMQ==) His mother was Marguerite Wadin McKay. Pettygrove was one of the founders of Portland, Oregon.)

In the fall of 1857 with train of twenty pack animals and appointed there clerk Capt. Fravallim of Oregon fame, there super cargo with Wm. Peon as guide and interpreter. The firm of Wolff and Demers sent down the dust from the fields to the Dalles to U.S. (mint) which created the great Fraser River excitement coming back to our McLaughlin outfit. The party took up the line of there travels unmolested to the Columbia River opposite the mouth of the Okanogan and Fort Okanogan, a trading post of the Hudson Bay Company In charge of a half-blood by the name of Francois Dusecette. (Francois Duchoquette will be part of this series.) (Telesphore Jacques "Jack" DeMers ended up as a merchant on the Flathead Reservation, he married Clara (Clarice) Revais (Rivet), the daughter of Antoine Revais (Rivet) and Emelie "Millie" Ursula Pend d'Oreille.)

On that side of the river we saw bands of Indians we called for canoes to them to cross us but they paid no attention to our demand. After waiting for half a day Francois came across with a Chief called Pieere. They told us that the Indians objected for us to going any further and would fight before they would permit us to do so. After consultation I was selected to go over the river with Geo. Montune as interpreter and after talking all night they agreed for a given a consideration to cross, with the assurance that if we did so, they would fight us. (George Montour will be part of this series.)

Chief Moses may have instigated the McLaughlin ambush, partly because his brother, Quiltenenock, had been killed in a fight with miners south of Wenatchee a few weeks earlier. Most of the Indians in the canyon could have been Chelans, who thought highly of Quiltenenock,

and Sar-sarp-kin's band whose homelands in the Sinlahekin Valley were subject to increasing trespass by whites. (Chief Moses may be part of this series.)

When we were going from the river to the Hudson Bay Company fort we noticed an Indian with a horse of our party. He was dressed in the owner's clothes that we suppose had returned to Walla Walla by the name M. Hillburn who had been killed without our knowledge before we had reached the river. He with others had been warned that not to straggle behind but to keep closely up for the country was not safe. This was the first casualty and put us on our guard. After crossing the river the Indians assisting us with canoes, we appointed our advanced and rearguard of 25 men each. We made three days march up the river without seeing an Indian but on the sandy bars of the Okanogan River, near the mouth of McLouglin Canyon we noticed a great many foot prints coming and going. We became satisfied that the Indians were near, to make their word good. We halted the advance guard until all the party had come up. Then we started through the canyon, which is a narrow defile 40 to 100 feet wide with vertical walls hundreds of feet high on each side, which widened at the mouth to some 200 yards.

We entered the mouth the guard in advance and had proceeded about 100 yards when one of the men noticed some wilted bushes and thinking strange of it went to examine them when the Indians behind it suspecting that we had noticed their ambush fired. Then shots came from the sides and in the rear of us, evidently trying to drive us into the canyon. Men threw themselves from their horses and those not killed or wounded returned the fire.

My horse on which I had my canteens with \$2000 gold dust in the saddle bags got away from me and ran up the canyon about 75 yards toward the Indians. I went for him and got him and returned with him to our line. Three of our party was killed and three wounded. If the wilted bushes behind which the Indians were lying on either side of the canyon had not attracted our attention and our party had gotten well into the canyon, I question if any of us would have gotten out alive. For in that pocket with only about 50 guns in our party, we would have been at their mercy.

We returned to the bank of the Okanogan River and while the guard was shooting at the Indians at the mouth of the canyon the men without guns were making rafts to cross the river. When the rafts were finished we first sent a guard which covered our crossing the next day. A day or two afterward the chief under a flag of truce proposed a treaty, which we readily assented to, but after making giving them presents they continued among us up the Okanogan and Similkameen River." <http://www.ghosttownsusa.com/bttales16.htm>

"The following year, William packed in the Oblate Missionary, Father Pandosy and his group from Fort Colville to L'Anse au Sable and in the winter of 1859-1860, he took horses with supplies from Thompson River to the starving Indians in the Nicola Valley." Bruce Watson

The Founding of the Okanagan Mission by Primrose Upton

"The founding of the Okanagan Mission, in 1859, by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the actual establishment of that Mission, in 1859-1860, by Father Charles Marie Pandosy, was the first permanent white settlement in the interior apart from the forts of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Here was a settlement not built around fur trading; not built on gold. Father Pandosy must have been as much agriculturist as missionary, and in his first report to his superior, written from the Okanagan in October, 1859, he said, "the tillable land is immense." Here was the first place of worship, the first land husbandry, the first school in the southern interior and in the entire hinterland of British Columbia.

The settlement was indeed fortunate in having at its head a priest of the calibre of Father Pandosy. He was a man of refinement and education and grew up surrounded by all the benefits that money and family influence could secure. All this he abandoned for a life of privation and hardship dedicated to helping the Indians. He had suffered through the Indian Wars of 1855 and 1856; he had seen some of his work go up in smoke with the destruction of St. Joseph's Mission by the Oregon Volunteers. Nothing daunted, on orders from his superior, he started a new mission in the Okanagan, and this time saw it grow and prosper.

With Father Richard, Brother Surel, and guides William Peon, Cyprian and Theodore Laurence, who stayed to take up land, they spent their first winter in a rude shelter at the south end of Duck Lake. The following spring, 1860, they moved to a location between Simpson's Ranch and Dry Creek and later the same year chose the site of the permanent mission. In that year Governor Douglas had thrown land open for settlement and the good Fathers registered their claim."

(<http://www.omra.ca/newsletters/Fall2006.pdf>) Okanagan Mission Review, Fall 2006. A quarterly newsletter published by the Okanagan Mission Residents' Association - Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada.

"When Father Pandosy was obliged to leave his mission work in the Oregon Territory in 1859, he first went to Colvile in search of provisions. When he left Colvile, he was accompanied by Cyprian Laurence and his wife Tersam his brother Theodore, a Flathead Indian and his wife, and Wm. Pion. The Laurence brothers and Pion became pioneer pre-emptors at Okanagan Mission.

..." From "Fur Trading Posts in the Okanagan and Similkameen" by Jean Webber, page 16, (Historical Papers Okanagan Historical Society 57th Report 1993).

From "Settlement at L'Anse au Sable" by F. M. Buckland, pp. 48-52, The Sixth Report of the Okanagan Historical Society - 1935:

"It was during the hard winter of 1859-60 that William Pion, pack-master for the Hudson's Bay Company, took his horses, loaded with food and supplies, to the upper Nicola Valley. Fighting his way through deep snow and in the intense cold of the dead of winter, helped to stave off the starvation that threatened a band of Indians there. This branch of the Nicola tribe had not been fortunate enough to participate in the bounteous distributions of their chief, Chilahichan, who had gathered a band of one hundred and fifty of his own horses and driven them from camp to camp through his country, leaving a few to each village to be slaughtered for food.

For the part William Pion played in this undertaking the Colonial Government gave him scrip for land. This scrip he located at Anse au Sable, just east of the present limits of the city of Kelowna, where, on a low ridge running south through his acres, he built for himself the first house of any pretensions ever erected in the valley. The house was constructed of logs and whip-sawed lumber; it was in an outstanding feature in the district, commanding a fine position, close to timber and the creek, overlooking the flats where Kelowna is to-day. An ideal place like this

for wintering his pack-horses assured him of fat stock in the spring when he again took the trails."

"In 1861 he discovered gold in the Cherry Creek area and with the proceeds built a fine house. Sometime after 1862, the building burned to the ground, and Peon headed south for a few years, leaving the deed in the care of a neighbour. When he returned, the deed had been stolen and other people were living on his land. William, who was illiterate, could apparently not prove his claim. The time and place of William's death have not been located." Bruce Watson

From "Pre-Exemption Claims in the Okanagan Valley," Margaret A. Ormsby, M.A., page 178, 6th Report of the Okanagan Historical Society, 1935:

Records of Claims by William George Cox, Magistrate, Rock Creek, B.C. 1861:

"No. 18 - June 13th. William Peon. Recorded for the above his rural claim situated on the east bank of Lake Okanagan, about three miles and a half northwest of the mouth of the River de l'Anse au Sable. The claim contains 160 acres of good arable land, is well watered by a creek which runs direct to the lake. Running from stake to stake 900 yards, thence east 800 yards, thence south 900 yards, thence to the point of commencement 800 yards. This claim includes the creek commonly known as Peon Creek as per map."

From the Sixth Report of the Okanagan Historical Society - 1935, "W.C. Young's Report on the Mines on Cherry Creek" Mrs. Angus Wood, page 57. Letter from "Shimilkomeen (sic), Customs Station, December 12, 1863 by W.C. Young to J.C. Haynes:

Arriving in the Shuswap country at the Catholic Mission he writes:

"Arrived at the Mission on the 28th - weather warm and pleasant and the country free from snow. The cabins, barns, fences, hay stacks in every direction give the country a pleasant appearance after travelling the dreary mountain trails.

The Catholic Mission buildings are new and very neat. The settlers' houses are generally of the smallest and poorest description. W. Pion's and J. McDougall's are good, well built houses, and the best in the settlement. The land, though not of the best quality, appears to produce abundantly; all crops have been very good this past season and that without any aid from irrigation. I saw some very good tobacco of their own growing." and he writes, page 59:

"The claim of Wm. Pion and Louis, the so-called discoverers, who reported to me they had made ninety-three dollars in four days with a rocker, are about one mile above this (the Kendall claim). Since they left for the Mission several parties of newcomers have worked their claim for a few days but could not make half wages. All men there deny that the coarse gold shown by Pion as Shuswap gold, ever came out of this claim as there is nothing here like it." On page 60: "In a letter to the Colonial Secretary, dated November 30, 1863, J. C. Haynes mentions William Pion as the discoverer of the mines on Cherry Creek."

"Almost half a century later, gold was discovered and more settlers moved into the area. In 1863, William Peon discovered the metal on the banks of the Spallumcheen River. After 1865 the Prospectors left the Shuswap and moved on to more promising fields"

(<http://www.landquest.com/detailmain.asp?prop=08340&curpage=6&search=price1M.>)

“From: Dominion at the West again. The warm dry climate of the inland summer, it may be observed, is specially favorable in cases of pulmonary disease; and in a more marked degree as we approach the southern frontier. Lower down the Columbia River, beyond the limits of the Province, where the climate is analogous in character, we have known cases of the recovery of consumptive patients, of the most signal nature.

[Footnote] I cite two instances, well known to the older residents of the Country. The first, a daughter of the late Joseph Felix Larocque, Esquire, of Montreal, formerly of the North-West and Hudson's Bay Company, the wife of Mr. William Pion. The second, a then young man, a native of Assineboia, who formerly acted occasionally as the writer's body servant, while traveling on the Lower Columbia. Both of them, reduced apparently to the last degree at Fort Vancouver, were sent to the Upper Country, and recovered with almost miraculous celerity. The lady first named, after the lapse of many years, is still, or was recently, living at Colvile, near the Boundary line; the second, hale and strong, was afterwards attached to one of the Hudson's Bay Company's parties in the Interior, and his name is now widely known in connexion with a pass in the Rocky Mountains on the line of the projected Northern Pacific Railway - Cadotte' Pass, to wit. ""In no particular order, plus various other letters A.C. Anderson letters, mostly from HBCA, in from other sources Reel 3M90, letters to Gov. Simpson (From Nancy Anderson)"

The descendants of William claim that Bonaparte Creek and Mountain in the U.S. Okanogan side were named after his descendant's family although it was more like named directly after the French emperor. " Bruce Watson

Angus MacDonald was Chief Trader at Fort Colville (originally spelled Colvile) and this letter was to his Son-in-law, James McKenzie, a former Hudson's Bay Company clerk at the same fort. The letter and notes are furnished by William S. Lewis.-Editor.

'Letter from Angus MacDonald, Colvile, 4th June '70.

Confidential

My dear McKenzie

Two horses were brought here by Joe [Lafleur] to blacks. he says he left the sorel of Peon' dying in the Colvile Mountain."

The sorel was the horse of Baptiste or William Peone, employee of the company, who settled at Peone Prairie, Spokane County. McKenzie did not take company horses on the trip.

[9https://digital.lib.washington.edu/ojs/index.php/WHQ/article/viewFile/6792/5863](https://digital.lib.washington.edu/ojs/index.php/WHQ/article/viewFile/6792/5863)

"Remember you are writing this at a little cabin, 10 o'clock at night at the falls below Fort Colville. There is a large country which has been settled by the Hudson Bay Company for 50 years. There are old settlers and mountaineers who know the country well. Jack Shaw, miner, Nelson Demarsh, packer, Lewis Matthew, Hudson Bay man. From Osoyoos to Lans-so-soble mission are Kamloops and or Susubbs [Sushwap] Indians. Bates Rabiska, a half breed who killed a man in the Willamette valley in 1858. Whiskey John, an Indian who is in that country is

a friend of Susupkin [Skolaskin]. He killed a man by the name of Bouchree [Boucher?] in 63. This man Harter is a herder for Hudley and Phelps taking care of cattle in the Okanagon valley. Batis Poun and William Poun [Baptiste and William Peone], two brothers. James Atton, a miner and packer. Jolly Jack, a man who came to the country in 1846 has packed and mined everywhere. Spokane Jim, a well posted man who has been in this country a long time and has become rich. Key-key-as quills." From Notebooks: 1878-1880 of Ned Chambreau: Notes for General O.O. Howard, compiled by Dennis Chambreau, "Trip Four Spokane-Colville, Pages 28-29. He and his family are enumerated on the US Census Washington Territory, Spokane County, 1880.

The two children of William Peone and Julie (LaRock) Larocque:

1. Basil (Pion) Peone who was born in the Oregon Territory in about 1838 and died about 1862. He married on August 21, 1854 Josephine "Josette" "Suzette" Finley at St. Paul Mission, Stevens Co., Washington. She was the daughter of James Finley and Susanna Bruyere dit La Graise, and the granddaughter of Jocko Finlay.

From the Sacred Heart Mission, Idaho, Baptismal Records 1842-1914, page 17:
6 May 1844

"Igo baptizavi Josephina filiam (Jacobi) Findley et Susanna 5 annos natum. Matrina fuit Josephite Maria Findley. A. Hoecken, S.J. miss S. Joseph 6 May 1844"

Basil was listed as a farmer.

From St. Paul's and St. Regis Mission Marriage Records from 1848:

M-29 Basil Pion and Josette Finley

Married at St. Paul Mission by Father Louis Vercryusse, S.J. Witnesses were J.B. Jabot et Finley

"Records of land claims "Wm G. Cox - Magistrate, Rockcreek, B.C., #19, Bazel Peon, June 30th 1861, recorded in favour of the above his rural claim situated near the shore of the Lake Okanogan. His father's claim intervening the claim is directly east of William Peon's claim. A good house is built on it -- 160 acres."

From St. Francis Regis Mission, Washington Record Book Burials 1853-1887

Listed alphabetically according to christian (or first) name.

(In this group of records is inserted a book that seems to list names in some kind of census or status record thus:

No date has been determined for this book.

(Possibly means)

name	tribe?	baptism?	census?	marriage?	Page
Basile Berland	sm				
Basile McKenzie	sm				
Basile Pion	sm			21 Aug. 1854	
Basile Berland	sm	18 Apr. 1852			

William and Esther had two sons: John and Gideon Peone. Gideon married Anne Flett II, the daughter of Thomas Flett and Lizette (Hubert) GrosLouis.

Esther Nikola also married Michael (Mitchell) Keogan and John McCarthy.

On December 23, 2010 Cindie Barlow wrote an email to Nancy Anderson:

“Dear Nancy,

I am the G-G-G-G-granddaughter of Esther Keogan. According to an article in the Okanagan Historical Society book 27 (1963) page 152, Esther was the granddaughter of chief Chil-chth-cha of the Nicola band.

Chief Chil-chth-cha was the son of Chief N’Kwalo the elder in that article.

I was thrilled to locate your information in the internet under fur trade family history. Your article notes that Chief Chil-chth-cha was the nephew, not the son of Chief N’Kwala.

I do not know the parents of Esther Keogan and I wonder if you may be able to help me with that?

Also, my heart skipped a beat when I read about the portrait in the BC Archives filed under “landscapes.” I can not locate it so far, please help me as soon as you can.

I live in Surrey. Thank you and have a very special Christmas.

Cindie Barlow, 16488-92A Ave’ Surrey BC’ V4N 5N1.”