

Ashley, Pierre (Perriche). (b. 1843)

Pierre aka: Po-lot-kau and Parlock or Peter Ashley, was born in 1843 and probably on 23 Nov 1843 at Porte d'Enfer (Hellgate) Montana at Finley Camp. His father was William Ashley and his mother was Margaret Finley (at least 1/2 Spokane Indian). William Ashley would marry Margaret "Maggie" Finley, the daughter of Jocko Finley, prior to 1843, and their son was named Pierre. Pierre's early life is unknown. It is doubtful that he had a formal education. He was well educated in the things that were necessary for making a living in the wilds (the present state of Montana). He trapped, hunted, and understood woods-lore. Later, as civilization dominated, he farmed and ranched. He knew horses and taught his sons about them.

Pierre may have been the only child of William and Margaret Ashley. But he could have had a full brother named William. His mother Margaret married again, to Angus Pierre McLeod, about 1855. Pierre may have had brothers and sisters from that union. Pierre Ashley sometimes used the surname McLeod or McCloud.

Pierre raised a large family in hard, rugged, dangerous times on the Flathead Reservation and surrounding territory. The Flathead was very dangerous in those days. His children were considered good people. A photograph shows Pierre Ashley as a stern looking man with a Charlie Chaplin-style mustache and deep, penetrating eyes. Somewhere in his travels, he met Mary Ermatinger. They were married by the priests at St. Ignatius Mission, Missoula County, Montana Territory on 23 Jan 1863.

St. Ignatius Mission -- 1863 Marriages Die 23 Jan. Pierrish son of William and Marguerite with Maria daughter of Pierrish Francis and Maria--witnesses: Xilkuitza (sic ?) and Maria & Fulesia (sic ?)

Source: http://www.oregonpioneers.com/bios/Pierre_MaryAshley2.pdf



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