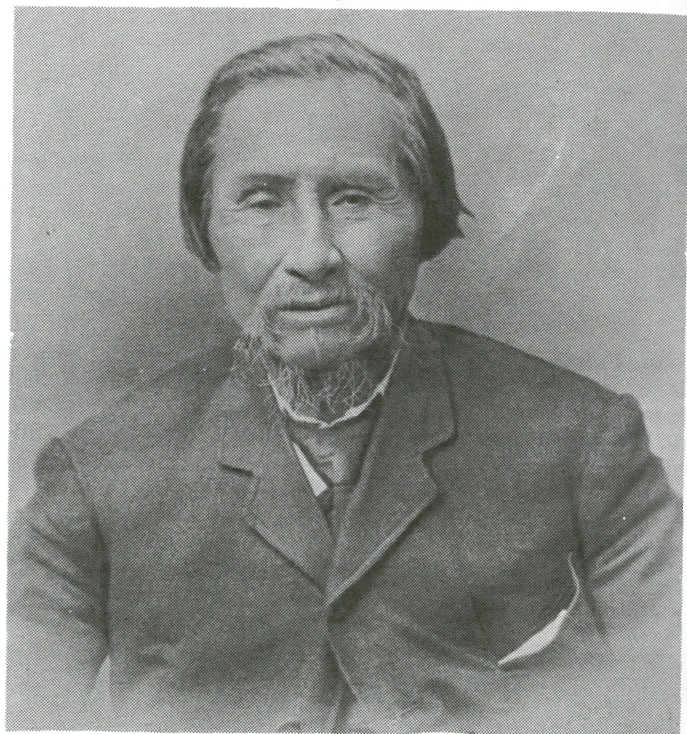


HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

The inclusion of several historic photographs is to be a regular feature of B.C. Perspectives. The editors welcome the submission of significant or outstanding photographs of any aspect of British Columbia's history. Photographs must be accompanied by approximately 250 words of explanatory text.



CHIEF LOUIS (1828-1915)

The first fur-traders arrived in Kamloops in 1811, marking the beginning of the end of the traditional way of life for the Indians. Hle-hleh-kan, dubbed Petit Louis by the traders, grew up at the period when the white men were welcomed, since they were too few to want much land for themselves, and the Indians were glad of trade goods offered for their furs.

By the 1850's, however, when Louis succeeded Grand Gule as Chief of the Kamloops Band, they were already suffering from over-trapping and even food scarcity. This evil was compounded with the discovery of gold and subsequent invasion by hordes of miners, most of whom had no concern for the country and its original inhabitants. Diseases came with them; in 1862 small-pox spread like wild-fire through the interior villages, killing huge numbers and leaving the survivors disheartened.

In 1862, too, Reserves were first designated, and the Indians became painfully aware that they were no longer lords of all they surveyed. But Louis stayed calm and determined; for the rest of his life he was in the forefront of negotiations to enlarge their pitiful land allocation, and improve conditions of life for his people. His efforts included several visits to Ottawa, and one to London to see Queen Victoria herself. He also made a brief trip to Europe; this portrait was taken in France.

Louis was one of the first Indians to own a band of horses, which proved a source of both profit and delight to him. When the Cornwalls held Ashcroft Races from 1866 onwards, and at later events in Kamloops, Savona, and the Nicola Valley, he was a regular—and very successful—competitor. He also enjoyed ceremonial pomp and circumstance, notably when various Governor-Generals visited.

After over 60 years in office, Chief Louis died in April, 1915, a sad loss to his people. The white community, too, attended the funeral as a mark of respect to this able leader.

Mary Balf
Kamloops Museum



BARKERVILLE GOLD

Barkerville and its historic gold rush was, and still is, the story of people. Men and women of all colours, races and religions came to the area seeking fortune. History now tells some of the stories of that era, other memories are preserved in photographs. This one shows two loaded freight-wagons halted at St. Saviours Church, in Barkerville. Here, the teams will have a breather before passing through town and winding their way up the long hill on the way to Whiskey Flats, and journeys end. This load, moved by four and ten-horse teams, heralded a revolution in the manner of processing placer gravels for it brought the first gold dredge into the Cariboo country. The three wagons making the trip were under the skilled hands of regular experienced freighters, Kong Sing, mounted, Maruin Baker, wearing chaps, back to camera, and Liploon, who took the picture. When this picture was obtained in 1948, all three were living in Quesnel and enjoying good health. The trip was made, according to Liploon, "around 1910 to 1912—maybe 1913, pretty hard to remember for sure."

Del Mufford
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