

Comcumly's Followers

Oregonian, Portland, Dec 17, 1899

On Elliot's bay of the Lower Columbia upon the Washington shore resides the granddaughter of Com-com-ly and the great grandson of that great chief of all the Chinook tribe in the days of Lewis and Clark and of John Jacob Astor. That granddaughter is the Princess Mary who is the only daughter of Princess Margaret who was one of the daughters of the famous chief by that one of his wives who was the daughter of the Chehalis chief. The Indian name of Princess Margaret Com-com-ly was Hah-at-lan.

Princess Mary is 73 years old a fine looking queenly woman with an air of the graceful command equal to that of Victoria. She is five feet 4 inches tall, the sculptor's model height for a woman. She has a strong intellectual face full of character. She having been reared from childhood up to the time of her first marriage at 18 in the family of Sir James Douglas, the factor of Hudson's Bay company under Gov. McLoughlin at Vancouver. She must have been a beautiful girl and was surely a favorite since she had been married three times, each time to a white man and her son in law insists he has to stand guard over her even now with a shot gun to keep away the numerous suitors. The picture in the cut herewith shows some idea of the royal carriage of this stately dame of an almost forgotten era (No picture in clip book)

Princess Mary's mother, the Princess Margaret in the year 1825 married a French Canadian who was a Hudson's bay trapper and at once went out with him and the trapping party of 100 into the rocky mts. it was during a wild and picturesque wedding tour for a princess.

Princess Mary was born on the present site of Salt Lake City. Her mother died some five years afterwards at Sacramento and Little Mary was taken for rearing by Sir James Douglas.

About the same time her grandfather, Chief Com-Com-ly died

suddenly in 1830 of virulent ~~in~~intermittent fever of an epidemic that carried off about 1000 of the people (his people) at the same time. Princess Mary was married on January 9, 1844 to Rogue Duchenev in St James Church Vancouver by the Catholic priest Father F.N. Blanchet, afterwards bishop of that diocese. In the marriage record her name is given as Mary Rondeau, Duchenev was a French Canadian clerk in the employ of the Hudson Bay company. In 1844 he was put in charge of their store at Chinook which was afterwards the county seat of Pacific county, Washington but is now wholly deserted.

This was prior to civil government in Oregon territory. Duchenev purchased Scarborough head, the present site of Fort Columbia, in 1856 at Guardian's sale for \$1400 after the death of its owner, Capt. James Scarborough. Duchenev died in 1861 leaving Princess Mary owner of the ancestral home of the Com-com-lys under the laws of the United States and the property U.S. government bought the property of her in 1864 for \$3,000 in greenbacks.

Princess Mary had six children by Duchenev, four of whom are now living

She soon married Solomon Preble a white California miner by whom she had two children. He died in 1868 and within four months his widow of royal lineage married another white man whose name smacks of the Emerald isle. He too, wet the way of all flesh 16 years ago leaving three children of the marriage. Her last husband's name was John C. Kelly.

Princess Mary's mother under the name of Margaret Chinook married Rondeau at Vancouver to which place the Hudson's Bay Company had in 1824 transferred its headquarters and to which in 1829 its main store and principal depot of supplies were removed from Astoria which was finally abandoned by them in 1849. Her mother's marriage was a great occasion in the highest circles at Hudson's Bay headquarters since old Chief Com-com-ly was treated as an equal and sat at the table with Sir

James Douglas and Dr. McLoughlin. He was in high feather. His principal palace or royal lodge was at Scarborough head where the new fort Columbia, is now being erected. The old place high up on the slope that catches the attention of all passers was the eerie from which he spied out the approach of the Hudson's Bay Company's ships which came every spring.

Com-com-ly was made chief bar and river pilot for the company, the first on the Columbia. James Scarborough being the second and wore the uniform of that service. When a ship came in sight he had 20 of his slaves launch the royal canoe and take him out to meet the vessel. His canoe and all its crew would be taken aboard and Com-com-ly would guide the craft up to headquarters at Vancouver.

Com-com-ly was a mighty chief and ruled a great empire. He was not only chief of the Chinook tribe opposite Astoria but he was principal chief of the confederacy of all the tribes of the Lower Columbia, except the Clatsops, who spoke the Chinook language, between the Cascades and Cape Disappointment. This includes some 11 powerful tribes. The Clatsop tribe, while speaking the Chinook language was not under Com-com-ly's suzerainty. Chief Co-ba-way was an independent ruler. The boundary line between his domain and Com-com-ly's empire ran from Smith's point at the mouth of Young's bay along the summit of the ridge over Coxcomb hill and up the high ridge between the Walluski (a Young's river affluent) and the John Day, a Columbia affluent. To the south as far as Arch cape Co-ba-way was supreme. This region with its five little connected valleys has recently and very fitly been named Captop valley by a well known chronicler. To the north of this ridge from Smith's point as far as Cathlamet head near Clifton, including Fort Astor, was the territory of the Kathlamet tribe under Com-com-ly's suzerainty. The Chinook tribe proper was located between Cape Disappointment and Gray's

river at Harrington's pont and back to the center of Willapa bay.

Then, continuing on the north side of the Columbia back to the Puget sound divide, came the Wah-ki-a-kums extending to west divide of the E-lo-ko-min; then the Con-yaks, extending to Kalama river divide the Kalama's reaching to Lewis river divide; the Ske-choot-wha, including Vancouver and then a time, the "ah-Sahl-Ha, reaching to the lower cascades of the Columbia river.

It is to be noted that in the main the watershed summits of important streams constituted their tribal boundaries. On the south side of the Columbia the Multnomahs reached from lowe cascades to East Scappoose divide and south to the Clackamas divide. It included site of the present city of Portland with the chief's palace at the head of Sauvie's island. Then came the Scappoose tribe which ruled to the Milton creek divide, and as far back as the summit of the Nehalem divide then followed the "ah-Can-a-She-She tribe which had dominion from St. Helens to the Beaver creek divide and then the Clays-Ka-Nie tribe ruled as far as the summit of the coast range at the east boundary of the Kath-la-mas, who governed from thence to Astoria. All of these powerful tribes spoke the Chinook language and acknowledged the suzerainty of Com-com-ly as the principal chief or king who had a wife from nearly every tribe and from some of the neighboring tribes. Possibly Brigham Roberts may claim descent from this original polygamist.

Com-com-ly's oldest daughter, the princess who married Astor's factor, McDo gal in 1811 was the daughter of her father's Scappoose wife who spoke the Chinook with a Scappoose accent. She died without any children. Che-nam-us was the oldest son of Com-com-ly and his mother was a Multnomah princess. Princess E-to-wah-ka was the daughter of Com-com-ly by a Willapa princess it is said. She lived always with the Chinook tribe, marrying in the tribe and died in 1861 at Ilwaco the thriving village named for her.

Prince Louis Ducheneey, really Duchesne, the oldest son of Princess Mary and the great grandson of ~~W~~^W Com-Comly by his Chehalis wife and also great granddondson of Cut-Cose the last Chehalis chief and lineal descendant of the last named ruler, has been ~~t~~^h by the Chehalis Indians on that reservation named Cut-Cose and adopted as their legitimate chief. They are in great commotion whenever he visits them and they implore him to come and dwell in their midst as their heaven born ruler. ^{But} Prince Louis has a 40 acre tract of land on Elliot's bay with Uncle Sam's patent and with a royal chinook salmon fishing privilege that is a gold mine. He also recently discovered a ledge of fine coal cropping out of the bold bluff of the Columbia between high and low tide, while behind in lofty heights rises a mountain that promises of even greater fortune than his salmon for fishery. He has also an interesting family, his wife being a quarter breed, the great granddaughter of a great Chinook warrior named Os-wol-lax, under Com-com-ly when that irate chieftain offered his troops to McDougla to fight the British and denounced his son in law as a squawman because he refused to defend the Boston Man's property. His daughter of old Os-wol-lax, a pure Chinook now 101 years old leaves near Prince Louis' home.

His oldest daughter has just returned from Cape Nome where she had been cooking for \$7 a day and board and where she had secured two good claims on Snake river. Prince Louis was somewhat hilarious over this return. As his photograph partly reveals he has a broad large masterful head as all great rulers have ever had.

Since the death of Dr. W.C. McKay of Pendleton, Ore a few years ago Prince Louis has become the hereditary ruler also of the Chinook empire. McKay was the son of another of Com-com-ly's daughters who married a Scotchman in the employ of the Hudson Bay company. Dr. McKay had almost polished education and was a practicing physician of eminence. He succeeded to hereditary rule on the death

of Che-nam-us in 1845. Che nam-us succeeded in 1830 to all the dominion of his illustrious father but that power was rapidly waning before the encroachments of the whites. By the time he died scarcely a vestige of that power remained. He left no lineal descendants.

His wife was a Willapa princess. The early American settlers at Astoria and on Clatsop plains call her Queen Sally. During her husband's life they lived mostly at his royal lodge on Scarborough head though they at times resided near Fort George. The site of their royal palace at the latter place, made of two inch cedar boards, is pointed out now at the base of the hill on Twelfth street in Astoria on the margin of a little cove in the bay as shown in Francrere's sketch of Astoria in 1811. Queen Sally survived her husband 15 years, dying in 1860. She was a woman of very strong character and commanded high respect. At the time of her death the glory of Com-com-ly's empire had departed.

The empire too of Co-ba-way the Clatsop chief and friend of Lewis and Clark had faded like a dream. At the death of Co-ba-way in 1824 without male heirs, he was succeeded by Kate-ya-hun, who was killed in 1829 when the Hudson's Bay ship bombarded the Clatsop village at Point Adams, the present site of Fort Stevens, and destroyed their power because of their plundering a vessel at Wawiy on sand island and falsely alleged murdering her crew. After that era their chiefs were only so in name. The last one was Tose-tum who strutted on his phantom stage from 1851 to 1876.

Princess Mary Kelly the present dowager queen of the Chinooks has an empire as substantial as that of Napoleon's descendants. She still holds her court in her grandfather's empire on Elliott's bay which extends from Jim Crow Point where the Columbia broadens out under the influence of ocean tide to Harrington point some six miles below. She

principal men of that region are her sons, sons-in-law and grandsons in-law and all acknowledge her sway. One son-in law J.G. Elliott is king of the bay and lives in a noble mansion that is conspicuous landmark. Nearby is the handsome residence of another son in law, W.L. Enyard who has a gold mine in the Jim Crow po ny seining grounds which yielded him \$20,000 in 1895. Not far off is a grandson in law's elegant home Tenas Illihee, the great and fertile island at the head of the bay was owned up to his death by John Fitzpatrick, then a rich seiner, another son-in-law. The only principal men along the bay not under the sway are the Laird of Pillar Rock (cannery*) and the postmaster (Megler) of the Brookfield cannery.

To the observer on a passing steamer the precipitous character of the shores of Elliott's bay seem to exclude all idea of its being the seat of thriving homes. Soon a level plant roadway will be constructed by Wahkiakum county on that bay which has been made into a separate road district. The queen dowager lives in a cosy three room cottage adjacent to the house of one of her sons in law with whom she boards. She has a parlor, bedroom, bath and toilet room, all heated by a modern stove. Rose geraniums in the front row tell of the aristocratic tastes acquired in the homes of Sir James Douglas 70 years ago.

Elliott's bay is a very rough winter harbor, the fearful southwest winds of winter come tearing across the Columbia's wide expanse from the safe lee shore of Astoria harbor and render this bay unfit for anything but the great fishing industry which is chiefly in the hands of King Com-com-ly's descendants and under the sway of his granddaughter and her royal son who came from this last fortress of their race, look at Scarborough head, the ancestral home of the great chief of the Chinook empire. From Jim Crow point on the Washington shore and

and Cathlamet head on the Oregon side to the mouth of the Columbia 29 miles away is found what is indeed a noble scene of empire. The dominating features of this scene is Tongue Point and Saddle Mountain. The former furnishes a complete view of the river with its six great bays, viz Elliott's Cathlamet, Gray's Astoria, Young's and Barker's bays and the city of Astoria itself.

The latter dominates these also and besides the five noble little rivers of Clatsop valley converging on Young's bay and the five flowing into the Columbia that fertilize Knappa valley/

Whenever one who travels the river turns amidst this great scene his vision rests upon both of these dominating features of the region where rolls the Oregon at the mouth of the Great river of the West.

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in 1830 of virulent intermittent fever of an epidemic that carried off about 1,000 of the people(his people) at the same time. Princess Mary was married on January 9, 1844 to Roque Duchenev in St. James Church, Vancouver by the Catholic Priest, Father F.N. Blanchet, afterwards bishop of that diocese. In the marriage record her name is given as Mary ~~Rondeau~~ Rondeau, Duchenev was a French Canadian clerk in the employ of the Hudson's Bay company. In 1844 he was put in charge of their store at Chinook which was afterwards the county seat of Pacific county, Washington, but is now wholly deserted.

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Whenever one who travels the river turns ~~amidst~~ amidst this great scene his vision rests upon both of these dominating features where rolls the Oregon at the mouth of the Great River of the west.

Fish Hawk-

Pendleton, Ore Aug 13- Fish Hawk is dead, chief of the Cayuses.

Consumption was the cause. He leaves an Indian wife, Fish Hawk was quite wealthy, ~~and~~ owning many acres of fertile reservation land. He was a member of the Presby^{by}terian church, though formerly a notorious drinker -- The Spokesman Review, August 14, 1901 .

Old Chief Peo Insane.

Pendleton, Ore. Jan 6-Chief Peo who for 30 years had been nominal head of the Umatilla Indians is insane and is now on his way to the government hospital at Canton, South Dakota. His ailment is pronounced by the reservation physician as alcoholic dementia, the Indian having been addicted to drink for a number of years. A short time ago he was on a protracted spree and when placed under arrest by a local policeman resisted and received a hard blow on the head. It is alleged from the officer, affected ~~had~~ his mind.

Peo has been entirely ignored by his fellow tribesmen since his downfall. He is about 58 years old and a son of Chief We-Nap-Snoot.

In his prime he was a noted character, having made several trips to Washington. He was a scout in government expeditions and acted as mediator when the allotments and treaty were made, preventing an uprising-The Spokesman Review, January 7, 1905.

Uma-pine

PRONOUNCED - "Uma PINE"
By NEZ PERCE - Walla Walla
Umatilla Walulapum
Cayuse Wana Puma
Yakima INFORMANTS - 1951 RE

Umapine--

Pendleton, Ore Feb. 8 - Umapine, a well known local Indian and sub chief of ~~the~~ Walla Walla tribe for a number of years has been chosen chief of the Cayuses. Announcement of his election to ~~the~~ ^{the} high office is made today by himself. ~~The~~ ^{the} meeting has been held on the reservation Monday ~~at~~ ^{on} this election fills the vacancy caused by ~~the~~ ^{the} death of Chief Ta-wi-toy two years ~~ago~~ ^{ago}.

The ~~two~~ ^{the} tribes now on the Umatilla reservation.. Umatilla, Walla Walla and Cayuses have much in common which probably accounts for ~~the~~ ^{the} fact that Umapine a ~~man~~ ^{Full} blood Cayuse has held the position of sub chief of the Walla Wallas under No shirt. Members of ~~the~~ ^{the} three tribes also participated in the recent election to which Umapine was made chief of ~~the~~ ^{the} Cayuse.

Aside from the fact that the new made chief is a born leader, being a giant in ~~stature~~ ^{stature} and force from the besetting vice of strong drink, which has worked therein of many of the Indians ~~in~~ ^{of} the reservation, Umapine is also of royal descent.

It was his father, also called Umapine, who betrayed Chief ~~F~~ ^Fegan of the ~~Bannocks~~ ^{Bannocks} when that hostile tribe was about to descend on the ~~town~~ ^{town} of Pendleton in 1878, saved the town from almost certain capture, prevented the ~~Bannocks~~ ^{Bannocks} and Piutes from joining forces with the Yakimas in a general attack on the whites and brought the Bannock war to a close.

Young Umapine with the present chief then but a youth was a member of the party which reprofiting by the treachery of ~~his~~ ^{his} father captured and killed Chief ~~F~~ ^Fegan, carrying his head in triumph to the soldiers who were stationed at the Umatilla agency under Captain Miles.

Umapine belongs to the old school..he scorns education and refuses to learn English language--His ideas of the

manner in which the affairs of the Indians should be managed do not conform to those of the government officials and as his following is large he is generally regarded at the agency as a trouble maker-- the Spokesman Review, February 9, 1909,

Palouse:

Red Chief 90 Drowns

Hoosis-mox-mox among last of the Palouse tribe.

Pendleton, Ore. May 3--Hoosis M^ox-mox chief of the once famous and now practically extinct tribe of Palouse Indians has passed to the happy hunting grounds by the water route.

Aged nearly 90 years he attempted to ride his pany across the treacherous Umatilla river which had been swollen by the recent rains. The horse was unable to keep its footing and both horse and rider were swept into a bunch of overhanging bushes near the river bank.

The age chief was brushed from the saddle and quickly drowned. The horse finally made its way to land and escaped but the body of the chief has not been recovered. Scores of Indians have taken up the search and a reward of two cayuse ponies is being offered for the man finding the body -Spokesman Review, May 4, 1909.