

Sinclair Expedition to the Spokane Country in 1854

This expedition started from what is present day Winnipeg, Manitoba on May 5, 1854. The party, of 23 families and 200 head of cattle, was intending left for the Columbia. Some say they were going to California to mine for gold. The only person to actually get to California was William Gibson, who did not remain there; he returned to Oregon and settled there. James Sinclair had agreed to enter the HBC service and take charge of the Walla Walla (Washington) and Snake districts, with the rank of clerk but the salary of a Chief Trader.

At Fort Edmonton, Thomas Hudson hired on with the HBC and remained there. At Edmonton they hired Chief Maskepetoon [Broken Arm] and his band of Wetaskiwin Cree to act as guides. That winter, the party stopped eight miles up the Coeur d'Alene (Spokane) River. They left that location in the spring of 1855 and proceeded to the Walla Walla Valley. They stayed there until 1856-57 when due to Indian troubles they were forced to move down to Oregon (Colville Valley).

Members of the 1854 Sinclair Expedition:¹

James Sinclair, age 50, with wife [Mary Campbell] and 7 children.

John Moar, age 50, with wife [Helena Campbell] and 4 children.

Roderich Sutherland, age 40, with wife and 1 child.

William Rowland, age 50, with wife and daughter.

James Gibson, age about 65.

William Gibson, age about 25.

Miles Burston, age about 55, and wife.

John Lyons, age about 50, wife and 2 children.

Philip Bird, age about 50, with wife and 3 children.

Arthur Bird, age about 40 years.

Thomas Bird, age about 50 years.

Charles Bird, age about 20 years.

George Taylor, age about 35 or 40 years.

Samuel Norn, age about 50 years.

Thomas Brown, age about 50 years, with wife, 3 daughters and infant son born enroute.

Harry Brown, age about 24 years.

John V. Campbell, age 22 years.

Robert Flint, age about 35 years, and wife.

James Whiteford, age about 55 years, with wife and 2 girls.

Peter Whiteford, age about 30, with wife and 1 child.

Frank Whitford, age about 25.

Andrew Whitford, age about 18.

Donald Whitford, age about 15.

¹ *The Washington Historical Quarterly*, Volume VII, No. 3, July 1916: 197-198. "The Sinclair Party—An Emigration Overland Along the Old Hudson Bay Company Route From Manitoba to the Spokane country in 1854

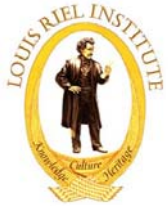
John Childe, age about 15.

Thomas Hudson, age about 55 years.

Old Daniel, age about 60 years.

Margaret Campbell, [sister of John V. Campbell] a single woman, age about 25.

Margaret Rowland, a maiden lady, age about 40.



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