Alexis and Marianne (aka Elmermach) Aubichon of Butteville, Oregon

Overview

Alexis Aubichon, son of Francois and Claire (Mousseau Desilets) Aubuchon Desalliers, was born on 1 February 1792 and baptized the next day at St. Genevieve de Berthierville, Quebec.[1] He died on 29 September 1867 in Butteville, Oregon, and was buried the next day in the St. Paul Church Cemetery in St. Paul, Oregon.[2]

His wife, the mother of his one son and six daughters, was Marianne (aka Elmermach) Tchinouk. She was born about 1815 in Oregon Territory.[3] She died in March 1880 in Pacific County, Washington, and is buried at Boldt Cemetery in Brookfield, Wahkiakum County, Washington.[4]

In 1905, Charles McChesney was charged by the Secretary of the Interior to identify descendants of the Lower Chinook Tribe who signed the August 1851 treaties with the United States. In 1906, he obtained 115 affidavits from Indians that identified the descendants[5] In one of the statements, Amelia Durival stated she was Marianne's sister.[6] They were the daughters of As-kal-wilsh (Oswallicks) and Arkansee.[7]

Note: Marianne's tribal name was given as Tchinouk in the St Paul Church register. Her father signed an 1851 treaty as a member of the Konnack Tribe of Chinook Indians. Her uncle signed an 1851 treaty as a member of the Lower Columbia Tribe of Chinook Indians.

Alexis and Marianne were apparently married in the fashion of the country since they had children before they were married on 8 July 1839 by Fr. F. N. Blanchet at Fort Vancouver, Oregon Territory.[8]

Literacy was low in the early Oregon country, and spelling was not consistent. Names are given in this article as they are found in the originals.

Northwest Company

Alexis Aubichon joined the Northwest Company in about 1814. In 1821, when the Northwest Company merged with the Hudson's Bay Company, he joined that company in the Columbia District.[9]

Hudson's Bay Company (HBC)

In 1824, the HBC records indicated Aubichon was aged 33 and had been in the fur trade for 10 years. His occupation was middleman, the oarsman on a canoe. However, he spent much of his working life as a trapper.

Aubichon was on Chief Trader Alexander McLeod's 1826 – 1827 HBC fur brigade.[10] The expedition was the first one in the area that became Coos County, Oregon. Wives and families of the hunters were included on trapping expeditions. They provided important support by preparing the furs and taking care of the camp. Aubichon and Marianne had a son Alexis who was around four years old. On 2 October 1826, "Obichons woman was delivered of a female child, in consequence of her indisposition we had to stop in the rear."[11] This daughter was Sophie Aubichon.

November 1826 Sunday 26th. Fine weather, men started for the purpose of trapping 2 Beavers brought to Camp. A trap belonging to [Alexis] **Aubichon** said to have been stolen, provisions getting scarce.
November 1826 Thursday 30th. Heavy rain all day and night. Laframboise accompanied P. Charles to set traps, but, meeting an Elk which they killed, returned with part of the meat. In the evening **Aubichon** and his associate arrived from trapping no success owing to the great rise of water from the late excessive rains.
January 1827 Saturday 6th. Cloudy weather. **Aubichon** and Joudoin who slept out on leave of absence, returned today, brought one beaver and two cranes, made preparations to proceed with a few men along the coast, the object in view is to reach, if possible, the great [Rogue] river, said to be some distance to the

southward all our endeavors to obtain satisfactory account of it have failed but I hope the excursion in contemplation, will put the question at rest. Settled two Indians to be of the party, gave instructions to the people remaining at the camp to continue trapping, turn about day after day, only half of them to absent themselves at once.

January 1827

Tuesday 23rd. Cloudy weather, with frequent showers of rain **Aubichon**, Joudoin Turoucoohinna requested to proceed by the Umpqua to recover some property they left there in November which I agreed to, having no burthen but their own things from where the navigation is dangerous, they can proceed by land gave a note to Ignace for Laframboise directing him to afford the party what assistance he can, and take every advantage of the favorable weather to get forward, directed this little party to keep together with the exception of Ignace who stopt to finish scraping a skin or two meantime the others go a short distance forward to lay their traps and are to wait for him, about midday the remainder of the party and self proceeded a few miles up the river, the heavy rain made us put sooner than we otherwise would have done, having upwards of two hundred skins in furs and no proper covering gives much trouble to preserve them from injury. The men who preceded us yesterday, we found near where we formed our Camp, they could not recover some of their traps owing to the heavy rise in the water, in the traps taken up, four Beavers were found in them.

Aubichon was on Michel Laframboise's April 1832 expedition to southern Oregon. In the following letter from Dr. John McLoughlin to Laframboise, Aubichon is named as a member of the party.

Letter Number 239. No copy in H. B. Co. A.

M Michel Laframboise

Fort Vancouver 3 April 1832

Dear Sir

I received yours of the 30th March and in regard of Turner you must not allow him to go with you as he has engaged as I always understood to work for a year for [Jean] Dupaty— and as the last has paid us, we can have nothing to do with him till his time is expired— you must positively send for Thomas Chinook little Pierre and Louis as they must accompany you as we have not every year the means as you Know to make a party to go where you are going therefore we must send at present more and when the people are few they can hunt about the Willamette, at the Bottom of this is the names of the freemen on your list and whom you will advertise to go with you

I am Yours truly John McLoughlin

1 **Alexis Aubichon**
2 Michel Otoetanie
3 Louis Shacgostska
4 Thomas Chinook
5 Little Pierre
6 Charlo
7 Louis Andre
8 Louis Iuongway
9 Francois Charpentier
10 Alexander Carson
11 Pierre Despard [Joseph]
12 Charles Ieaudoins
13 Amable Quesnel

I am told Louis Shanagarate wants to go with you, you can let him go if you chouse — you must send word to those that have to come here to be equipt that they must send their families on after you or

with you while they come here so as not to lose time the season is advancing no time must be lost and leave me a list of all those you have advertised in case of any one remaining that I may Know how to act, Mr. Douglas sends you the Axes and Knives you demanded and the Duffles for Borygne but every person ought to take all they want before leaving this place.— will go off in a few days and will overtake you and if any on your list refuse to go they Aubichon will have to go with the Snake party to replace the men I will send you to make up your number and you must get their Horses and traps from them to equip the men I will have to send

(signed) JMcL[12]

Two HBC men were murdered by Indians near the Umpqua River, and McLoughlin sent the Laframboise brigade to avenge the killing.

"Report from McLoughlin to Simpson, September 12, 1832

I am sorry to inform you that Pierre Kuraquiron and Thomas Canasawarette were murdered last year by the Killinook Indians. The two deceased had not given any provocation and the only reason why these villains perpetrated this atrocity was to possess themselves of the property of the two deceased. On hearing this melancholy intelligence, I immediately sent Michel Laframboise who was in the Willamette with his party on their way to their hunting grounds to proceed and attack the village of the murderers; which he did and killed 6 of them."[13]

In 1839, Dr. Elijah White of the Methodist Mission wrote a description of Laframboise's brigade. It is likely that the 1832 expedition started out the same way.

"Perhaps my readers would be pleased to hear something more particular of the parties sent out by the Hudson's Bay Company, as they have so often been mentioned. One of these parties passed through the settlement about the time of Mr. Hall's visit [1839] and the manner of their procedures will illustrate the general custom. They start in the spring for California, carrying with them merchandise and English goods, for barter with the natives, and return, laden with furs, principally of the beaver and otter. This company, just before entering the settlement, which was early in the morning stopped to remove from their persons stains and traces of travel, and dress themselves carefully in their best attire. They then formed themselves in Indian file, led by Mr. La Fromboy, the chief of the party. … Next, the clerk and his wife, much in the same manner; and so on to the officers of less importance, and the men; and finally the boys, driving the pack horses, with bales of furs, one hundred and eighty pounds to each animal. The trampling of the fast-walking horses, the silvery tinkling of the small bells, rich, handsome dresses, and fine appearance of the riders, whose number amounted to sixty or seventy. The array was really patriarchal, and had quite an imposing appearance."[14]

Aubichon continued to work as a hunter and trapper, and Marianne and the children went with the expeditions. Daughter Sophie was born on the McLeod expedition in October 1826 in Oregon.[15] Daughter Emile was born in 1830 in California,[16] daughter Julie was born in 1833 in California, and daughter Catherine was born in 1837 in California. Son Alexis died after 1839, likely in California.

The Priests Arrive

In November 1838, Fathers Francois Norbert Blanchet and Modeste Demers arrived at the St Paul wooden church the settlers had built for them. After visiting the local French-Canadian settlements, the first St. Paul mass was held on 6 January 1839. Subsequent masses were held until 3 February 1839 and then from 13 May to 10 June 1839.

The following sacraments were administered in Vancouver.

> This 20 June, 1839, we priest undersigned have baptized Catherine, aged 2 years and a half, natural daughter of **Alexis Aubichon and of Marie-Anne, Tchinouk** by nation. Godfather Etienne Lussier who has not known how to sign.[17]

> This 8 July, 1839, in view of the dispensation of 2 bans granted by us Grand Vicar and the publication of the third between **Alexis Aubichon, engagé, formerly of Berthier, district of Montréal, in Canada, on the one part, and Marie Anne, Tchinouk** by nation, baptized, on the other part, nor any impediment being discovered, we priest undersigned Missionary, have received their mutual consent of marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction in presence of Sieur Joseph McLoughlin, and of Jean Baptiste Jaudoin undersigned, before whom the said spouses have recognized as their legitimate children Alexis aged 17 years, Sophie aged 13 years, Emilie aged 9 years, Julie aged 6 years, and Catherine aged 3 years. The said spouses have not known how to sign.[18]

Note: This is the only time the son Alexis is mentioned. Harriet Duncan Munnick knew some of the Aubichon descendants. This is what she wrote about Alexis.

> [Aubichon] was sent with Work to establish Fort Langley in British Columbia, with Laframboise on various expeditions, and to California in the 1830's. On one such Expedition his son Alexis II was killed by Indians. The story, as recalled by descendants, runs something like this: The infant of one of the families in the train had died, and the parents wished it to be buried at home. But a brigade moved slowly, burdened with all its trappings, so young Alexis volunteered to ride on ahead with the dead baby. A band of roving Indians, seeing man with a bundle riding in haste, mistook him for a thief and shot him. Upon discovering their error, they simply left him where he fell on the trail, to be found later by the brigade. The tale may have suffered many distortions in the passage of years.[19]

The following entry may be Mariann's baptismal record.

> This 7 July, 1839, we priest undersigned have baptized Marie Anne, aged 25 years, born of infidel parents, Tchinouk by nation. Godmother Catherine Russie who has not known how to sign.[20]

The priests took up residence in St. Paul. From then on, the Aubichon sacraments were in the St. Paul register.

> This 18 December, 1839, we priest undersigned have baptized at the house of William McCarty, in danger of death, Joseph aged about 14 years, child of his wife with another man before her legitimate present marriage. Godmother the **wife of Alexis Aubichon** who has not known how to sign. [21]

> This 16 April, 1840, we priest undersigned have baptized Philomene born the 7th of this month of the legitimate marriage of **Alexis Aubichon, farmer of this place, and of Marie Anne Tchinouk**.

Godfather Jean Baptiste Aubichon, godmother Catherine Russie who as well as the father have not known how to sign.[22]

In September 1840, Rev. J. H. Frost left Fort George [Astoria] for the Willamette in search of "assistance to put up a house for myself, which was a very urgent matter, as the rainy season would set in soon." He traveled to Oregon City where he employed Mr. Waller's hired hand and a crippled Indian to take him to Obishaw's landing, a few miles from Champoeg. When he arrived, Aubichon was not there, "but his Indian wife was very friendly and permitted us to lodge in their cabin where I spent, considering all things, a very comfortable night."[23]

St. Paul

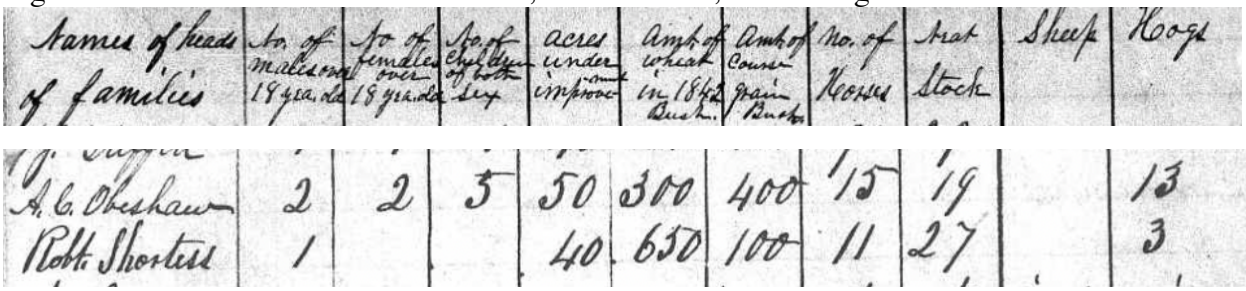
This 23 *[February?],* 1842, we priest undersigned have baptized Alexis born day before yesterday of the legitimate marriage of Louis Forcier farmer of this place, and of Catherine Tchinouk. **Godfather, Alexis Aubichon, godmother Marie Anne Tchinouk**, who have not known how to sign.[24]

A French Prairie Census

In September 1842, Dr. Elijah White, the first Oregon Indian Agent, arrived in the Willamette Valley with a wagon train of settlers. This was a return home for him. In 1836, the Methodist Church appointed him as a physician to the Willamette Valley mission. In 1841, due to differences with Jason Lee over mission policies, White resigned and returned to the States.

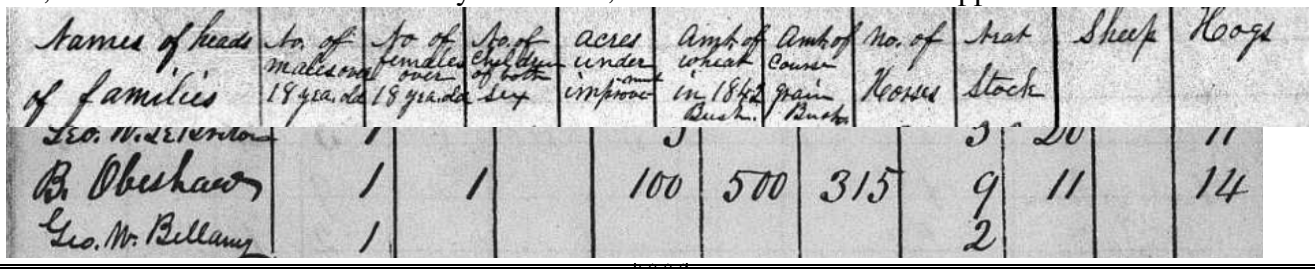
In 1843, White made a census of settlers in the Oregon Territory. He intended to show that it was possible to farm the Territory and that the British had a foothold with their retired HBC employees. The Canadians would be in the majority unless American settlers moved in. The Territory was under the "joint occupancy" agreement. An overwhelming number of British settlers could tip the balance of power, and Oregon could become an English possession. White's census included the number of men, women, and children, a summary of their crops, and the number of farm animals.

The "Obeshaw" household consisted of two males over the age of 18, two females over the age of 18, and five children. They had 50 acres under improvement and had harvested 300 bushels of wheat and 400 bushels of coarse grain in 1842. Aubichon had 15 horses, 19 neat stock, and 13 hogs.[25]



Names of heads of families	No. of males over 18 yrs. old	No. of females over 18 yrs. old	No. of Children of both sex	acres under improvement	Amt. of wheat in 1842 Bush.	Amt. of Coarse grain Bush.	No. of Horses	Neat Stock	Sheep	Hogs
A. G. Obeshaw	2	2	5	50	300	400	15	19		13
Robt. Shortess	1			40	650	100	11	27		3

Baptiste Obeshaw was also enumerated in White's census.[26] As mentioned before, he was from Sorel, Quebec, rather than Bertherville. He may be related, but the connection is not apparent.[27]



Names of heads of families	No. of males over 18 yrs. old	No. of females over 18 yrs. old	No. of Children of both sex	acres under improvement	Amt. of wheat in 1842 Bush.	Amt. of Coarse grain Bush.	No. of Horses	Neat Stock	Sheep	Hogs
B. Obeshaw	1	1		100	500	315	9	11		14
Geo. W. Bellamy	1						2			

Provisional Government

Ewing Young, a fur trapper and merchant with extensive land holdings and the largest cattle herd outside of the Hudson's Bay Company, died in February of 1841. He appeared to have no heirs, and there was no law for disposing of his property. Settlers had held a meeting to discuss the marauding wolf problem. They continued these meetings to discuss Young's estate, and the opinion was that a government should be established. On 2 May 1843, a meeting was held at Champoeg to vote on the government organization. By a 52 to 50 vote, the Provisional Government won.[28] Aubichon was one of the 50.

Taxation was an issue at the meetings, and a resolution was adopted that there would be no taxes. There would be a voluntary subscription. Unfortunately, that subscription did not bring in enough money to pay for running the government. In 1844, the legislature passed a voluntary tax act. There was a "catch" to the voluntary part. If a person did not pay the tax, he would not be allowed to vote or to defend his rights in court. The rights included land ownership and debts. [29]

When the 1844 taxes were taken, Alexis Aubichon was taxed on horses valued at $270, cattle valued at $1,800, and hogs valued at $180.[30]

Tax Book, 1844 Names	Town Lots	Pleasure Carriages	Mills	Clocks	Watches	Horses	Mules	Cattle	Hogs	Merchandise	Total Valuation	Poll Tax Amount of tax at the rate of ⅛ of 1 per cent
Nailor, [Naylor] Thomas						100	300				400	1.00
Obishaw, Alexander [Aubichon, Alexis]						270		1800	155		2225	3.28
Obishaw, [Aubichon] Babtiste						200		200	180		580	1.23x
Oneal, [O'Neil] James				12		340		2400	120		2872	4.93x
Oneil, [O'Neil] Bennett												
Oregon Milling Co.			5950								5950	7.94
Olinger, Abraham						35		200	5		240	.80
Osborn, N[eil]						20					20	.53x
Otey, Morris	300					130					430	1.04x
Ough, Richd						120		200	60		380	.98x
Osaw, [Osant] Louis						300		300	100		[700]	
Portia, [Portier] John						75					75	.59
Pero, John Batiste						355		630	24		1009	1.76x

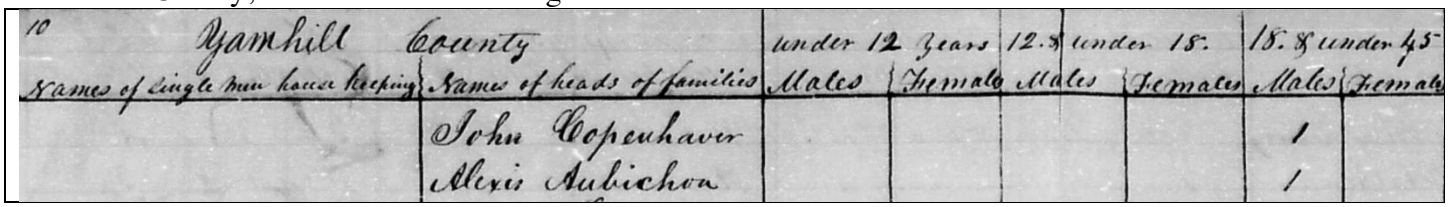
Rev. F. N. Blanchet at the St Paul Mission paid a $6.60 tax on a valuation of $4,267. His taxed items were one mill valued at $2,000; a clock valued at $12; watches valued at $25; horses valued at $280; cattle valued at $1,800; and hogs valued at $150.[31]

Tax Book, 1844 Names	Town Lots	Pleasure Carriages	Mills	Clocks	Watches	Horses	Mules	Cattle	Hogs	Merchandise	Total Valuation	Poll Tax Amount of tax at the rate of ⅛ of 1 per cen
Brown, Jeffrey												.66x
Butler, Amon					25	25		100			[150]	.75x
Black, J. P.												
Blanchet, F. N.			2000	12	25	280		1800	150		4267	6.60x
Bolly, [Bailey] William				10	30	270		420	20		750	1.44x
Brown, James						75		30			105	.63x
Bearneas, Akin [Etienne]						80		80			160	.69

The Aubichon's last child was born on 17 March 1844 and baptized at the St. Paul Church.

> The 20 October, 1844, we priest undersigned have baptized Elizabeth born the 17 of March of the legitimate marriage **of Alexis Aubichon farmer of this place and of Marie Anne Tchinouk.** Godfather Joseph Gervais, godmother Victoire Joseph McLoughlin.[32]

Oregon's provisional government authorized the sheriff to take a census after the first Monday in March Alexis Aubichon was enumerated in the Yamhill County and Champoeg County censuses.
In Yamhill County, he was named as a single male over 18 and under 45.[33]



10 Yamhill County		under 12 years		12 & under 18		18 & under 45	
Names of single men house keeping	Names of heads of families	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
	John Copenhaver					1	
	Alexis Aubichon					1	

In the 1845 Champoeg County census, Aubichon was credited with the following,

3 females under 12
1 female aged 12 and under 18
1 male 45 and over
1 female 45 and over[34]

The children marry

In 1845, the two eldest Aubichon daughters married. On 27 January 1845, Emile married Amable Petit at the St. Louis Church. On 23 June 1845, Sophie married Joseph Laferte at the St. Paul Church.

> The 27 January, 1845, I undersigned, missionary of the Company of Jesus, after having published the first bann of marriage with the dispensation of the second and third, have received the mutual consent of Amable Petit, son of Aimable Petit and of Marianne Boudrie, on the one part: and of **Emilie Obichon** daughter of **Alexis Obichon and of Marianne Tchinouk** by nation, on the other part, residents of the Wallamette, and have given them the nuptial benediction, in the presence of Joseph Jervet and Louis Forcier, who could not sign as witnesses. [35]
> Note: there was another Amable Petit in the area. He was from Bertherville, the son of Augustin Petit-Bruneau and Catherine Marcotte.[36]

> The 23 June, 1845, in view of the publication of two bans of marriage and the dispensation of a third between Joachim Laferte, son of . . .
> [The remainder of this entry is blank and is unsigned.] [37]

Land

The early French Prairie settlers, mostly retired Hudson's Bay Company retirees, selected prairie land that didn't encroach on their neighbors. The land was under the oversight of the Hudson's Bay Company, and there does not appear to be a formal registration process.

Oregon's provisional government permitted inhabitants to stake out claims and survey them by the metes and bounds method. A legislative committee created a constitution that included rules for the land claims. Any male could claim 640 acres, and within six months of recording their claim, they were to build a home.[38]

On 18 September 1846, Aubichon made a claim for 640 acres on the East bank of the Willamette River, a few rods north of the Butte Granary. Joseph Laferte's claim was on his southeast.[39]

On the same day, Joseph Laferte made a claim for 640 acres on the east side of the Willamette River. It was north of the Butte Granary.

On 22 October 1845, John Baptiste Obeshon made a claim for 640 acres. It was bound on the west by Etienne Gregoir and Louis Grant, south by Luke Gagnon, north by Louis Rondou, and east by Thomas Roi.[40]

On 11 November 1848, Amable Petite made a claim for 640 acres. It was bounded by Cuthbert Lambert Robillard on the east, and it adjoined the Willamette River.[41]

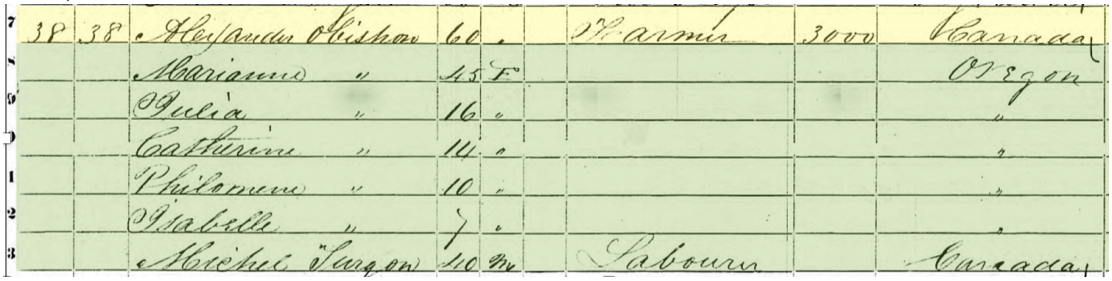
Life went on for the Aubichon family, and the increase in the family was documented at the St. Paul Church.

The 8 January, 1849, we the undersigned priest, parish priest of St. Paul, after the publication of three bans, namely, the 1st, the 6th and the 9th of January, without having found any impediment, have received the mutual consent to marriage of Antoine Lucier, living in this parish, son of the late Antoine Lucier and of Charlotte Desnoyer of Canada, and of **Julie Aubichon,** minor daughter of **Alexis Aubichon and of Marianne,** living at the Bute de Sable at the house of her father, in the presence of Messires Etienne Lucier, uncle of the groom, living in the parish of St. Louis, and so on.[42]
The 6 December, 1849, we priest undersigned have baptized Joseph born the 4th of this month of the legitimate marriage of Joseph Laferté and of Sophie Aubichon his wife, the godfather **Alexis Aubichon, the godmother Marianne Walès** his wife, all of this parish.[43]
The 30 December, 1849, we priest undersigned have baptized Hubert born the 28th of this month, of the legitimate marriage of Amable Petit and of Emelie Aubichon, his wife, the **godfather Alexis Aubichon, the godmother Marianne Walès** his wife, all of this parish.

The "**Walès**" name in the December sacraments may have contributed to the mistaken belief that Marianne was one of Chief Comcomly's daughters. That theory does not agree with the personal testimony of Marianne's sister in the previously cited McChesney Rolls.

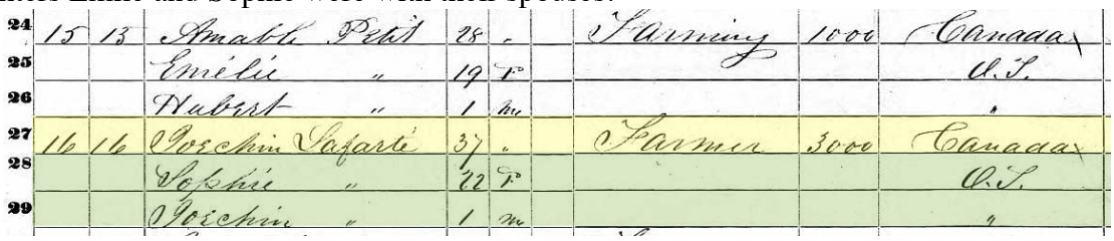
Ilchee, one of Comcomly's daughters, was known as the Princess of Wales. In 1813, she was married to Duncan McDougall. He left her in 1817 and returned to Canada. She married Chief Casenove/Kieseno. In 1830, Casenove became the Chinook head chief.[44]

The Alexander Obichon family was enumerated in the 1850 Marion County census. It consisted of Alexis, Marianne, and their children. Julia was married to Antone Lucier but was not with him in the census.[45]



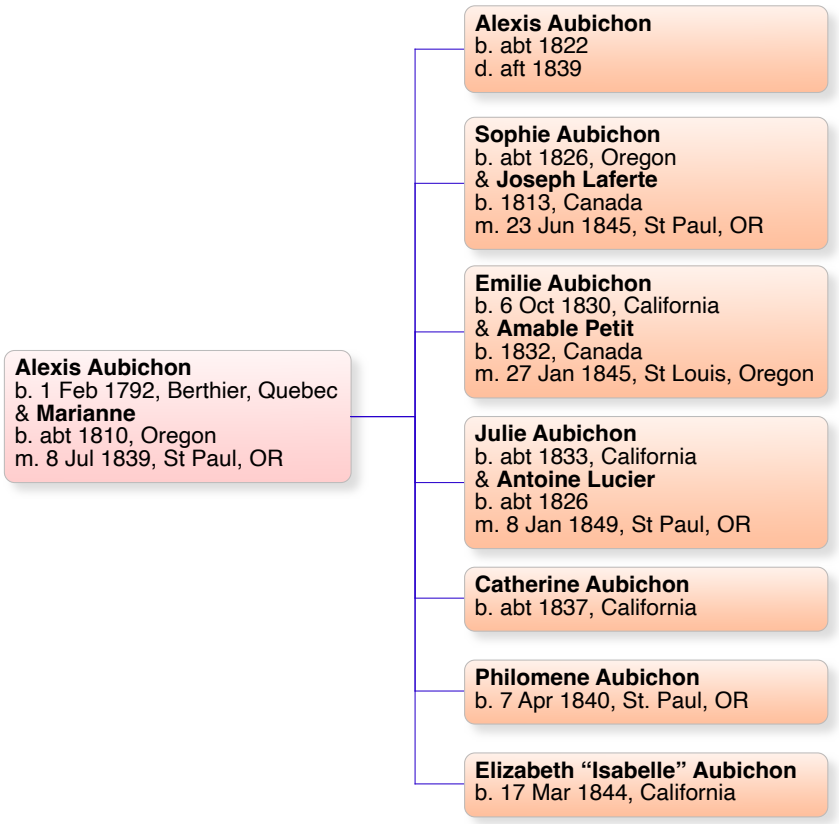
38	38	Alexander Obishon	60	M		Farmer	3000	Canada
		Marianne "	45	F				Oregon
		Julia "	16	"				"
		Catharine "	14	"				"
		Philomene "	10	"				"
		Isabelle "	7	"				"
		Michel Largon	40	M		Labourer		Canada

Daughters Emile and Sophie were with their spouses.[46]



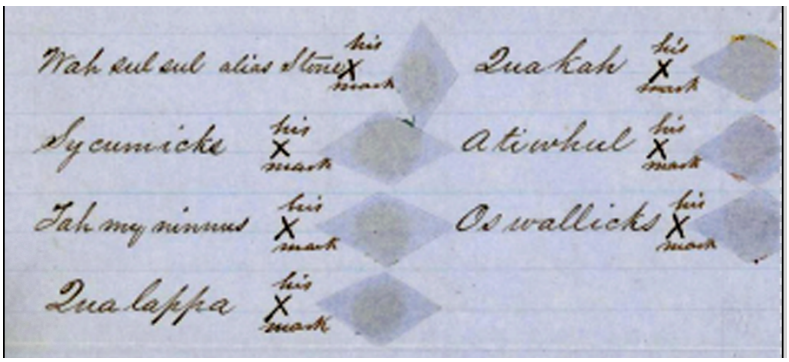
24	15	13	Amable Petit	28		Farming	1000	Canada
25			Emilie "	19	F			U.S.
26			Hubert "	1	m			"
27	16	16	Joseph Laferte	37		Farmer	3000	Canada
28			Sophie "	22	F			U.S.
29			Joseph "	1	m			"

This chart shows the family in 1850.



The year 1851 was significant for members of the Chinook tribes. In August of that year, Anson Dart, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, met with leaders of each tribe and negotiated treaties. The Indians gave up their lands in exchange for promises of money and goods that never came.

Oswallicks, Marianne's father, was one of the seven signers of the 8 August 1851 treaty with the Konnack (Cooniacs) Band of the Chinooks.[47] The Cooniacs lived at Oak Point on the south side of the Columbia River near the mouth of the Cowlitz.[48]



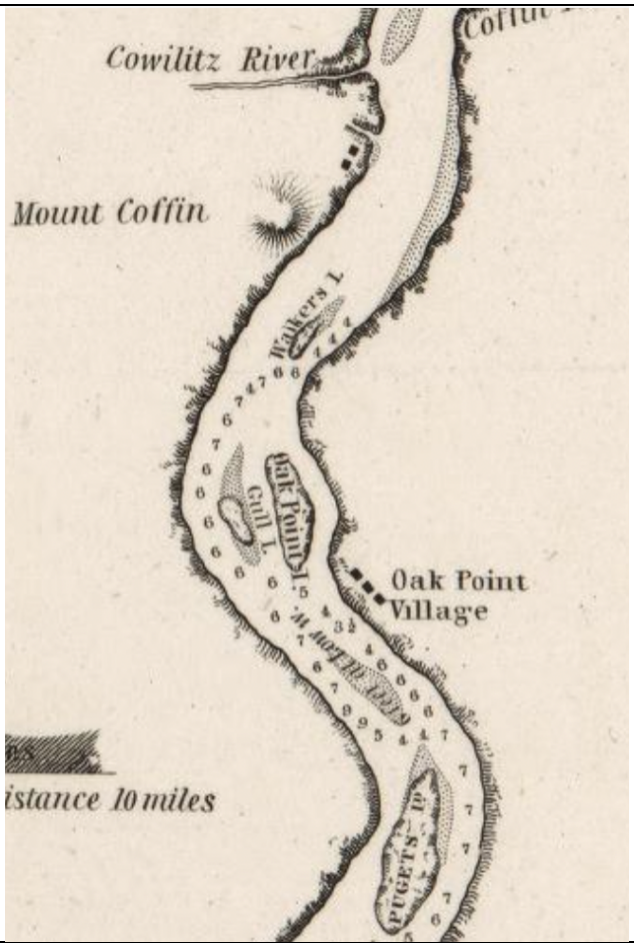
Konnack signers.[49]

Other names for the tribe include Kahnyak or Kukhnyak, and the Kreluits of Franchère.[50]

Gabriel Franchere's 1811 report of the area around Fort Astoria includes a section about the Kreluit Indian camp.

"We continued our journey on the 3d: the river narrows considerably, at about thirty miles from its mouth, and is obstructed with islands, which are thickly covered with the willow, poplar, alder, and ash. These islands are, without exception, uninhabited and uninhabitable, being nothing but swamps, and entirely overflowed in the months of June and July; as we understood from *Coalpo* , our guide, who appeared to be an intelligent man."

"In proportion as we advanced, we saw the high mountains capped with snow, which form the chief and majestic feature, though a stern one, of the banks of the Columbia for some distance from its mouth, recede, and give place to a country of moderate elevation, and rising amphitheatrically from the margin of the stream. The river narrows to a mile or thereabouts; the forest is less dense, and patches of green prairie are seen. We passed a large village on the south bank, called ***Kreluit*** , above which is a fine forest of oaks; and encamped for the night, on a low point, at the foot of an isolated rock, about one hundred and fifty feet high. This rock appeared to me remarkable on account of its situation, reposing in the midst of a low and swampy ground, as if it had been dropped from the clouds, and seeming to have no connection with the neighboring mountains. On a cornice or shelving projection about thirty feet from its base, the natives of the adjacent villages deposit their dead, in canoes; and it is the same rock to which, for this reason, Lieutenant Broughton gave the name of ***Mount Coffin."***[51]



Slacum's 1837 sketch of Oak Point[52]

"On the 4th, in the morning, we arrived at a large village of the same name as that which we had passed the evening before, *Kreluit* , and we landed to obtain information respecting a considerable stream, which here discharges into the Columbia, and respecting its resources for the hunter and trader in furs. It comes from the north, and is called *Cowlitzk* by the natives."

In 1814, Alexander Henry saw eight long houses and several other houses at Oak Point.[53]

Yahmants, one of the chiefs and headmen of a village on the Naselle River, along with nineteen others, signed one of the August 1851 treaties.[54] He died about 1890, leaving no descendants.[55] He was named as the uncle of Mary Petit, Isabel Betrand, Julia Lussier, and Catherine Obershaw Pelissier, all children of Alexis and Marianne.[56] This means he was Marianne's brother.

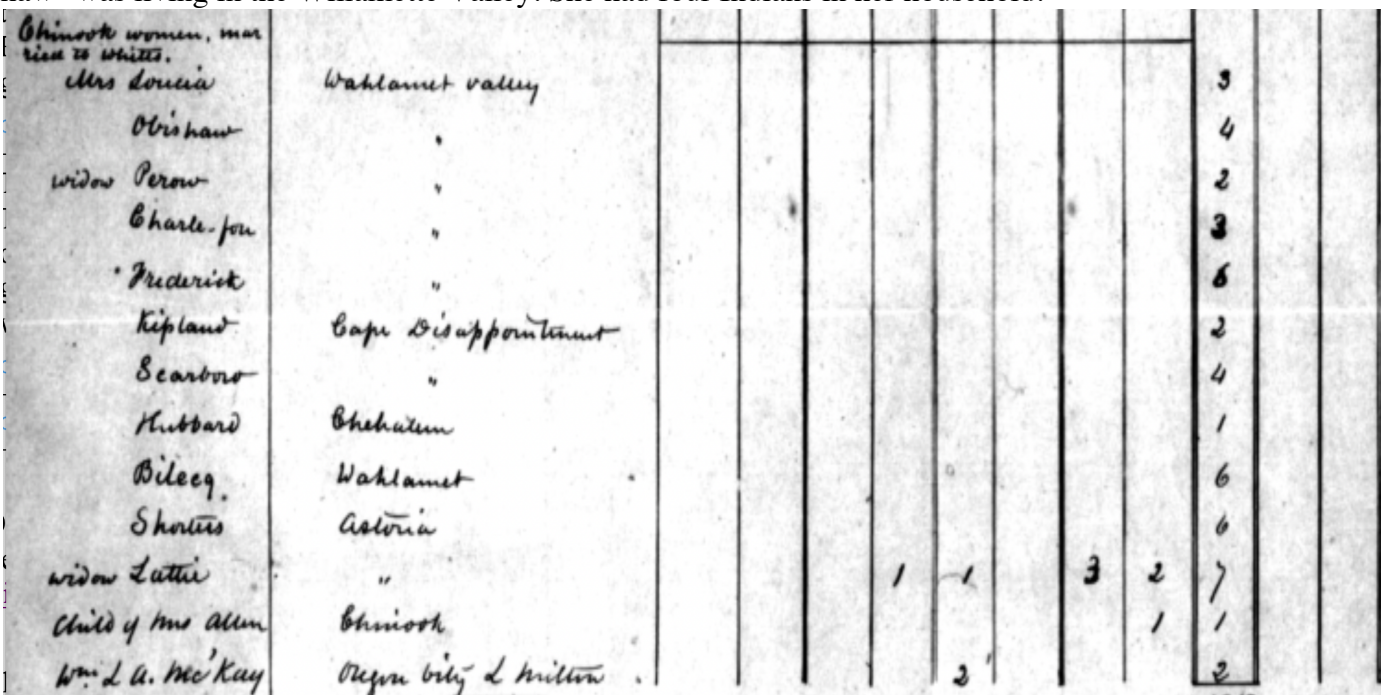
Yahmuts signed this treaty that gave up a territory that covers most of what is now Pacific County, Washington.

On 25 June 1850, George Gibbs, Assistant Collector of Customs at Astoria. wrote a letter to the Department of the Interior requesting a sub-agent be appointed for the lands at the mouth of the Columbia River. In the letter, he stated that Robert Shortess was the person he recommended. Shortess's wife was "the daughter of the late great chief of the Chinooks."[57]

The meetings between Anson Dart and the Indians were arranged by Robert Shortess who was then Indian sub-agent in Astoria.



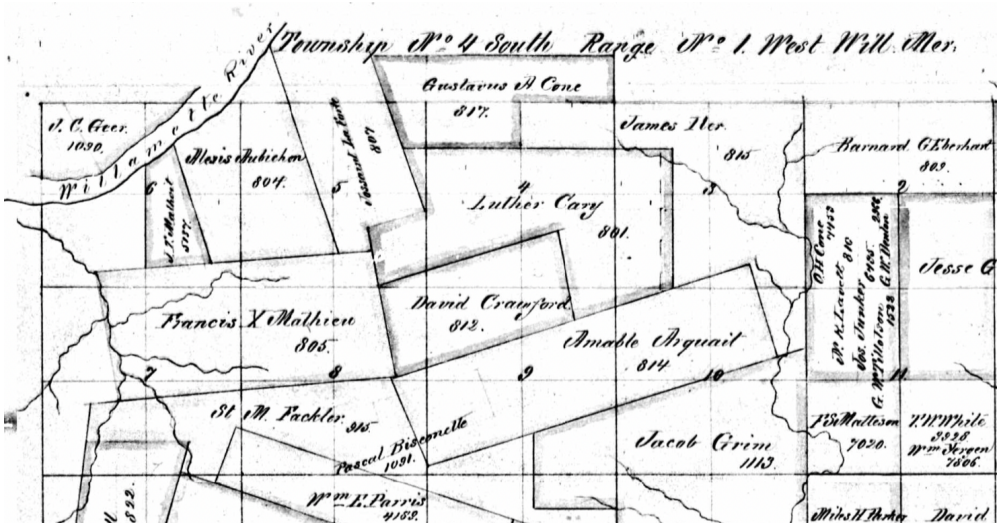
In January 1851, prior to the treaties, Shortess made a census of the Chinook tribe of Indians. A "Mrs. Obishaw" was living in the Willamette Valley. She had four Indians in her household.[58]



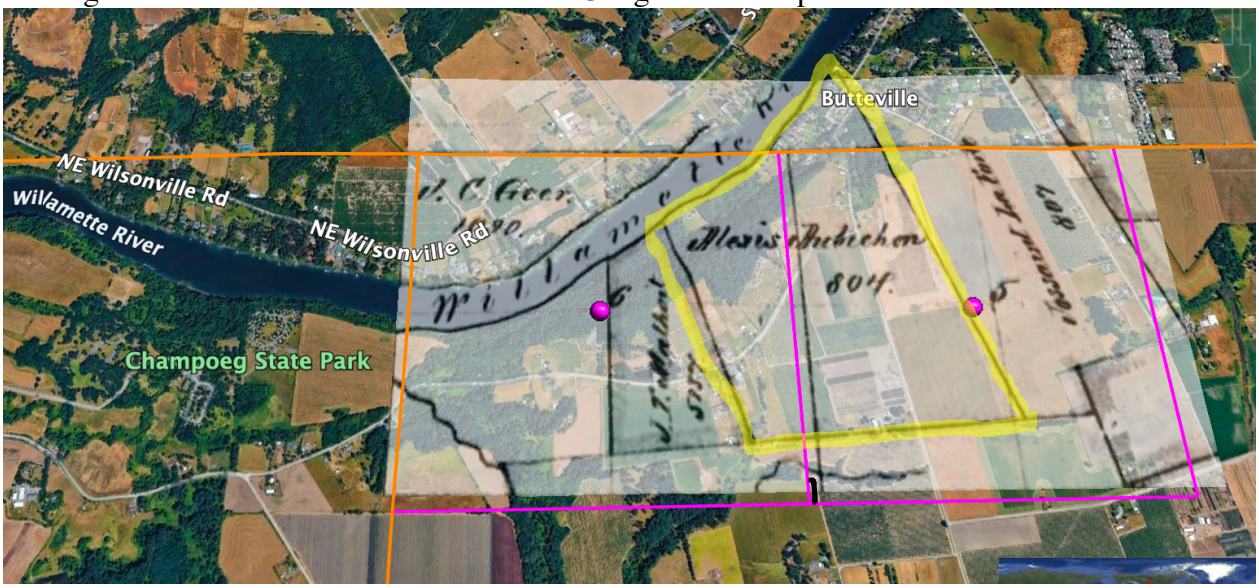
Donation Land Claim

The provisional land claims became null and void when Congress passed the Donation Act of 1850. That act, effective on 1 December 1850, gave 320 acres to every white settler or half-breed Indian who was over eighteen years and who filed a claim. For married men, their wives received 320 acres in their own right, and a proof of marriage had to be submitted. The claimant had to be a citizen of the United States or had made a declaration of intent to become a citizen.

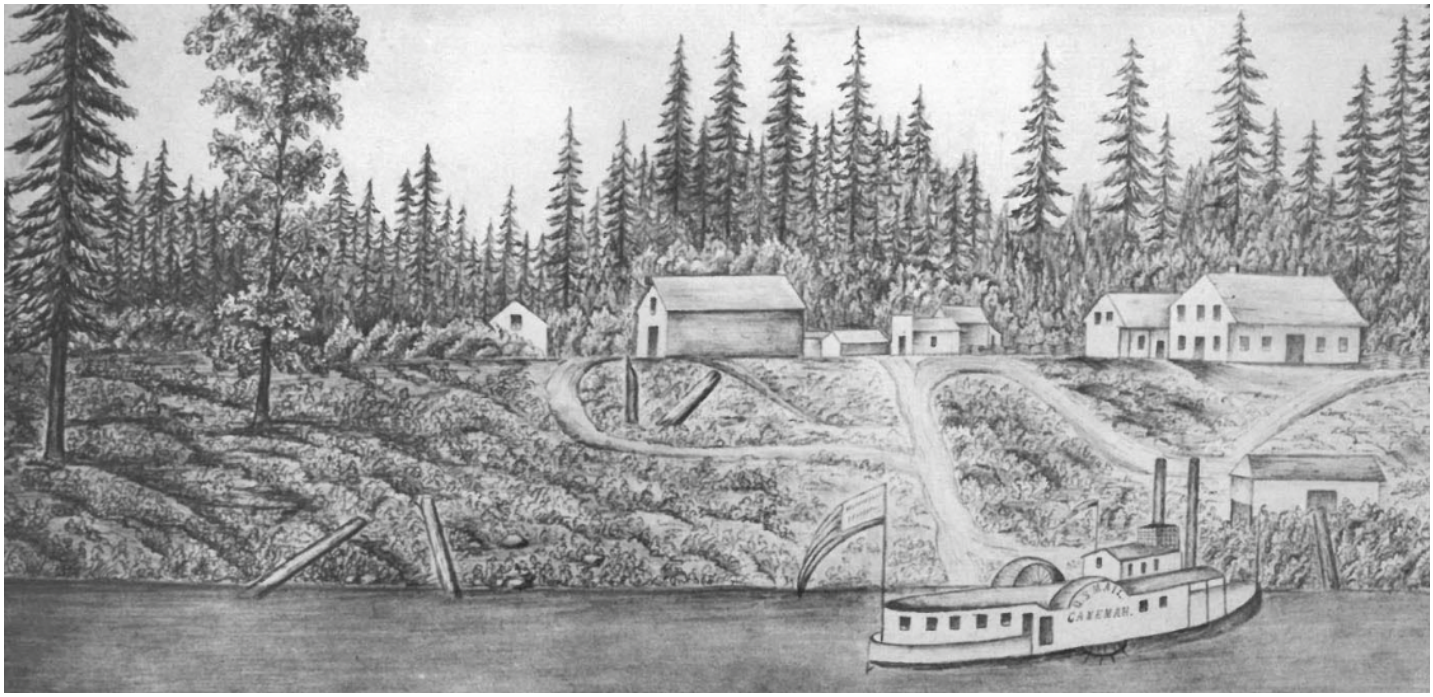
Aubichon's claim was on the Willamette River. Joseph Laferte, his son-in-law, had the claim to the east.[59]



An image of the land claim was overlain on a Google Earth map.



The town of Butteville was created on the Aubichon and Laferte claims. In 1850, F. X. Matthieu bought the granary and operated it as a trading post.[60] It was on Butte Avenue, above Aubichon's Landing.



Butteville Landing, circa 1852.[61]

Alexis and Marianne started selling off parts of their claim. Many of the sales for were for Butteville town lots, as illustrated in the following deed abstracts.

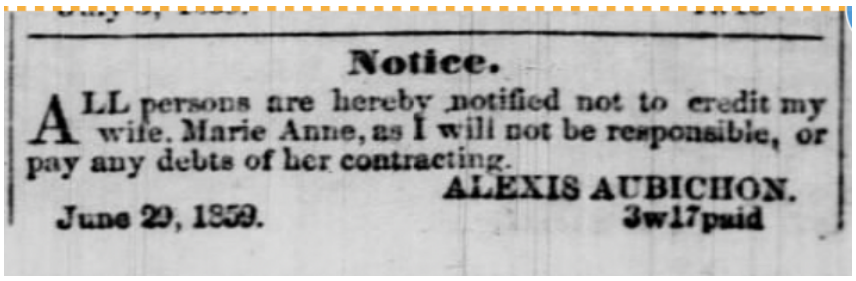
On 14 Nov 1853, Alexcie Aubichon and Marion, his wife, sold land in Butteville to John W. Bachelor for $200. It was described as "Butteville, Block No 3, Block No1 on French Street."[62]

On 16 October 1854, Alexcie Aubichon and Marion Aubichon, his wife, sold 110 acres to John Mathiot for $725. The land was described as "Commencing at the South West corner of the Aubichon claim in Tw 4, R 1."[63] Perhaps the sale was to pay for taxes. Alex Aubichon was on the 1854 Marion County Delinquent tax list for one poll and 500 acres of property for a total tax of $3.25.[64]

On 12 August 1854 in Butteville, daughter Philomene left her husband, Felix Xavier Roy. She returned to the home, but she left several more times and took up a life of prostitution in San Francisco, California, and The Dalles, Oregon. Divorce was granted in 1861 when she was living in Walla Walla with David McLaughlin.[65] He was the son of Dr. John McLoughlin.

This notice was published in the 19 July 1859 issue of the Weekly Oregon Statesman.66

No further information was provided.



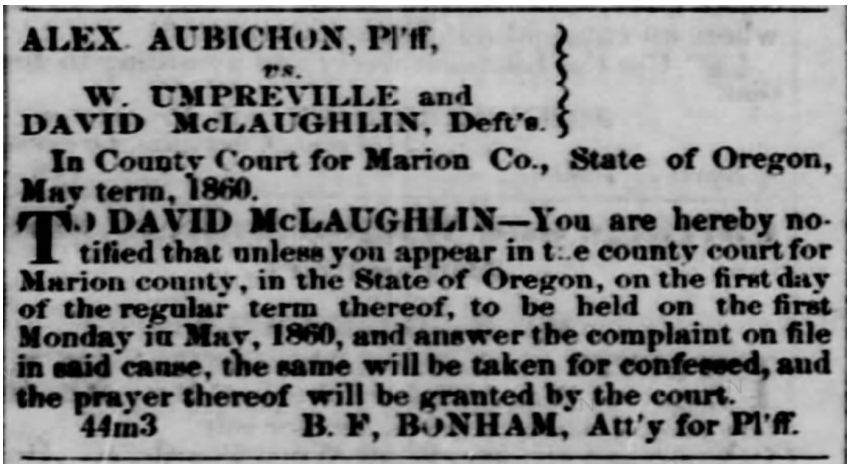
Notice.

ALL persons are hereby notified not to credit my wife, Marie Anne, as I will not be responsible, or pay any debts of her contracting.

ALEXIS AUBICHON.

June 29, 1859. 3w17paid

David McLaughlin was named in a suit filed by Aubichon in January 1860.[67]



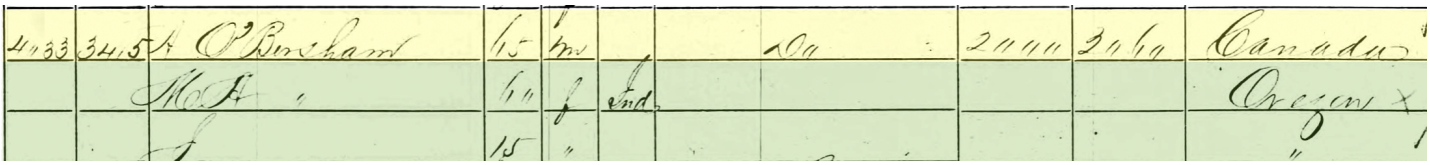
ALEX. AUBICHON, Pl'ff,
vs.
W. UMPREVILLE and
DAVID McLAUGHLIN, Deft's.

In County Court for Marion Co., State of Oregon, May term, 1860.

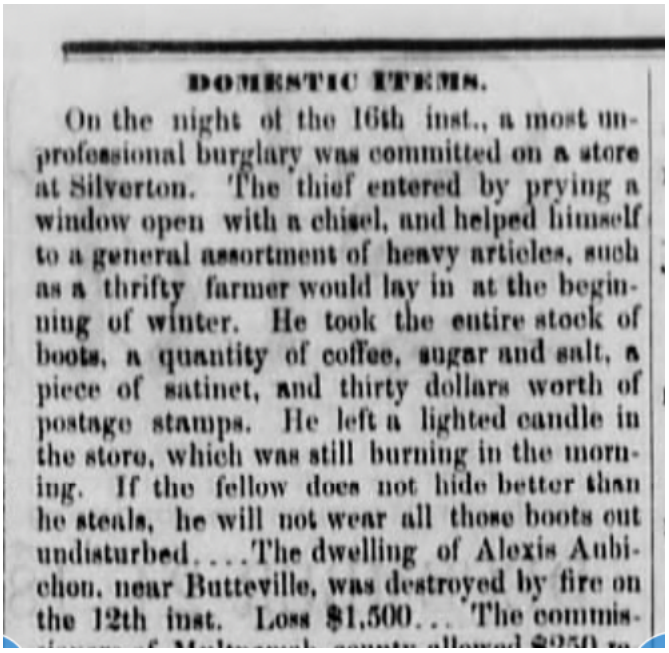
To DAVID McLAUGHLIN—You are hereby notified that unless you appear in the county court for Marion county, in the State of Oregon, on the first day of the regular term thereof, to be held on the first Monday in May, 1860, and answer the complaint on file in said cause, the same will be taken for confessed, and the prayer thereof will be granted by the court.

44m3 B. F, BONHAM, Att'y for Pl'ff.

Alexis and Marianne were enumerated in the 1860 Marion County census, along with daughter Elizabeth (Isabelle). They weren't living in Butteville. Instead, they were in Santiam Precinct, in the southern part of Marion County.[68] The census date was the first of June, but the census was taken on 14 July.



In mid-December 1860, the Alexis Aubichon house "near Butteville" burned down.[69]



DOMESTIC ITEMS.

On the night of the 16th inst., a most unprofessional burglary was committed on a store at Silverton. The thief entered by prying a window open with a chisel, and helped himself to a general assortment of heavy articles, such as a thrifty farmer would lay in at the beginning of winter. He took the entire stock of boots, a quantity of coffee, sugar and salt, a piece of satinet, and thirty dollars worth of postage stamps. He left a lighted candle in the store, which was still burning in the morning. If the fellow does not hide better than he steals, he will not wear all those boots out undisturbed. . . . The dwelling of Alexis Aubichon, near Butteville, was destroyed by fire on the 12th inst. Loss $1,500. . . The commis-

On 19 April 1862, Alexis and Mary Ann dictated their last will and testament. In return for a considerable inheritance, Amable Petit was to take care of the old couple for the rest of their life.

19 April 1862, Last Will and Testament of Alexie Aubichon and Wife

"Know all men by these presents that we, Alexie Aubichon and Mary Ann Aubichon, wife of said Alexie Aubichon, of the County of Marion, State of Oregon, considering the shortness of life and

being of sound mind and memory, do make and publish this our last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills by us at any time heretofore made."

"We appoint Amable Petit, our son-in-law, to be sole Executor of this will. He is to pay all our debts and funeral expenses and legacies from our estate.

"We give Amable Petit, our son-in-law, our house and lots with all the buildings and furniture of the house. We give him the six lots on which we had a house that burned along with all the buildings on it. We give him two horses, a two-horse wagon and harness, one carriage and harness, one cow and calf, one Chinook canoe, a gold watch, and the interest on all our money."

"In return Amable Petit agrees to maintain both of us as long as we live and furnish with all necessary food and clothing. When we die, he is to bury us in the Catholic church.

"After we are both dead, our money shall be divided amongst our six daughters.

Alexie Aubichon, his mark

Mary Ann Aubichon, her mark

F X. Matthieu and S Clark, witnesses

On 3 October 1863, Alexis and Marianne sold lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 in Block 3 of St. Alexcie to Joseph E. Bertrands for $100.[70]

This 1878 Marion County atlas shows the Block 3 in St. Alexcie.[71]



On 28 September 1867, Aubichon dictated a new last will and testament.

> ". . . Knowing the uncertainty of human life and being desirous of settling my affairs and directing how the estate with which it has pleased God to bless me shall be disposed of after my decease. While I have strength and capacity so to do, do make and publish this my last will and testament hereby revoking and making null and void all other last wills and testaments by me heretofore made.
>
> "And first I desire that my body should be buried with little expense or ostentation by my executor hereinafter named."
>
> "My will is that all my just debts and funeral charges shall by my executors hereafter named by paid out of my estate as soon after my decease as shall by him be found convenient.
>
> "And as I have heretofore given to each and every one of my Children Male and female a portion of my earthly property, I do now give devise and bequeath to my Wife Mary Ann Aubishon all the property real personal or mixed of which I shall die."…
>
> Mitchel Pelise was appointed as the executor. Note: this would be Michel Pellicier, daughter Catherine's husband.[72]

Alexis Aubichon died the next day. After the funeral mass at St. Paul, he was buried in the St. Paul Cemetery.

> The 30 September, 1867, we Priest undersigned have buried in the cemetery of this place the body of **Alexis Aubichon** deceased the day before, aged about 80 years. Witnesses: Jos. Laferte, step-son, and Charles Mathieu, friend of the deceased.[73]

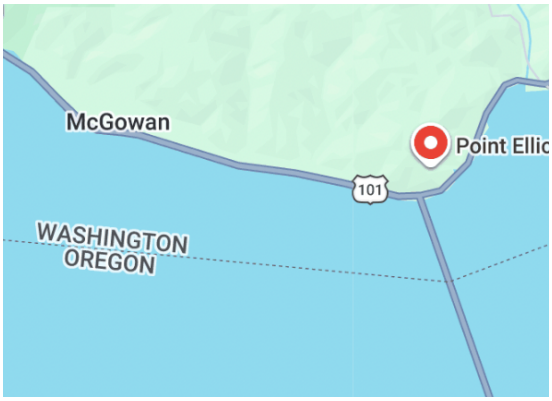
On 4 September 1868, Amable Petit filed Aubichon's probate in the Marion County Circuit Court. He said that Mitchel Pelese, the named executor of the estate, had moved to Missouri. Mary Ann, the widow, had paid all of Aubichon's debts. There was Butteville property valued at about $200, and the title needed to be transferred to the widow.

The list of survivors did not include daughter Catherine.

1. Wife Mary Ann, still living, Chinookville, Wn., age about 70 years
2. Sophia Lafferty, aged about 38, residing in Marion County
3. Sally Petit, aged about 36, residing in Chinookville, Wn.
4. Julie Lucy, aged about 37, residing in Astoria
5. Fillamina King, aged about 29, residing in Portland
6. Elizabeth Bertron, aged about 36, residing in Oysterville.

Chinookville was located in Pacific County, Washington, on the north side of the Columbia River. It was between McGowan and Point Ellice.[74]

Chinookville is in ED 28 in Pacific County, Washington.



Marianne Obershaw is listed in the 1880 Pacific County, Washington, Mortality Schedule. She died in Pacific County's ED 28 on March 1880 of a rupture of the stomach.[75]

Marianne is buried in Boldt Cemetery, Wahkiakum County, Washington.[76]

Created by Connie Lenzen, 31 August 2026

End Notes

[1] Family record of Francois Aubichon and Claire Mouseau, *Programme de Recherche en Démograpie Historique* (https://www.prdh-igd.com/Membership/en/PRDH/Famille/67194 : accessed 5 August 2026.) Note:.

[2] George Brown, "Friends and Family on the French Prairie [and elsewhere] ,"(St Paul, Oregon: St Paul Mission Historical Society, 2001), non-paginated.

[3] 1850 Marion County, Oregon Territory, census, p. 76, dwelling 38, family 38, *Ancestry*.

[4] Marie Ann "Marianne" Elmermach Aubichon, *FindAGrave*; https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/151893389/marie_anne-aubichon.

[5] Rolls of Certain Indian Tribes in Oregon and Washington; Letter from the Secretary of the Interior; House Document No. 133, 59th Congress, 2nd Session, downloaded from *Wikimedia Commons;* https://dn720209.ca.archive.org/0/items/rollsofcertainin00unit/rollsofcertainin00unit.pdf.

[6] Rolls of Certain Indian Tribes, p.15.

[7] "Summary under the Criteria and Evidence for Proposed Finding Against Federal Acknowledgment of the Chinook Indian Tribe, Inc." (United States Department of the Interior, Office of Federal Acknowledgement, 1997), 11; https://www.bia.gov/sites/default/files/media_document/057_pf.pdf.

[8] Harriet Duncan Munnick and Mikell De Lores Wormell Warner, *Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest, Vancouver* (St. Paul, Oregon: French Prairie Press, 1972), Vol. I, p. 47, M-57.

[9] Alexis Aubichon Biographical Sheet; digital image, Hudson's Bay Company Archives; https://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/_assets/docs/hbca/biographical/a/aubichon_alexis.pdf.

[10] "Alexander McLeod Journal Excerpts, October 26, 1826 – February 5, 1827," Coquille Trails; http://www.orww.org/Coquelle_Trails/History_1826-1875/Journals/McLeod_1826-1827.html.

[11] Lionel Youst, "An Incident at Coos Bay: Oral History Compared with a Contemporary Source." *The Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 115, no. 3 (2024): 111; https://www.jstor.org/stable/27378015.

[12] Burt Brown Barker, *Letters of Dr. John McLoughlin Written at Fort Vancouver 1829–1832* (Portland: Binfords & Mort, 1948), 266 – 67.

[13] R. Scott Byram, "Colonial Power and Indigenous Justice: Fur Trade Violence and Its Aftermath in Yaquina Narrative" (University of California, Berkeley, 2008), 371; Oregon Websites and Watersheds Project, Inc.; http://www.orww.org/1828_Umpqua_Memorial/References%20/Byram_20080920.pdf.

[14] Elijah White, *Ten Years in Oregon, Travels and Adventures of Doctor E. White and Lady West of the Rocky* Mountains (Ithaca, N.Y.; Mack, Andrus, & Co., Printers, 1848), 119-20.

[15] Lionel Youst, "An Incident at Coos Bay: Oral History Compared with a Contemporary Source, p. 111.

[16] 1883 Pacific County, Washington, Territorial census, p.18, dwelling 100, family 78, Amabel Petit; Washington Digital Archives.

[17] Harriet Duncan Munnick and Mikell De Lores Wormell Warner, *Vancouver* Vol. I, p. 44, B-164.

[18] Harriet Duncan Munnick and Mikell De Lores Wormell Warner, *Vancouver*, Vol. I, p. 47, M-5.

[19] Harriet Duncan Munnick*, Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest: St. Paul, Oregon 1839–1898*, (Portland, OR: Binford & Mort, 1979), Appendix.

[20] Harriet Duncan Munnick and Mikell De Lores Wormell Warner, *Vancouver,* Vol. I, p.48, B-179.

[21] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul*, Vol. I, p. 2, B-6.

[22] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul*, Vol. I, p. 8, B-22.

[23] Eathel Abbey Moore, "Sands of Clatsop," *The Daily Astorian,* 22 Jan 1958, p. 5.

[24] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul*, Vol. I, p. 43, B-129.

[25] Lists of settlers west of Rockies, 1842 by Elijah White, Indian Agent," *FamilySearch,* DGS 8276177, image 117; citing List of Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1842 – 1880, Oregon Superintendency, NARA M234, reel 607, image 121.

[26] Lists of settlers west of Rockies, 1842 by Elijah White, Indian Agent,, image 123.

[27] Harriet Duncan Munnick and Mikell De Lores Wormell Warner, *Vancouver* Vol. I, p. 42, M-28.

[28] Charles Henry Carey, *History of Oregon*, Vol. I (Chicago: The Pioneer Historical Publishing Company, 1922), 379.

[29] Leslie M. Scott, "First Taxes in Oregon, 1844." *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 31, no. 1 (1930): 3, 4, 5, 6; http://www.jstor.org/stable/2061051.

[30] Leslie M. Scott, "First Taxpayers in Oregon, 1844." *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 31, no. 1 (1930); 20; http://www.jstor.org/stable/20610516.

[31] Leslie M. Scott, "First Taxpayers in Oregon, 1844, p. 20.

[32] Harriet Duncan Munnick, St. Paul, Oregon 1839–1898, Vol. I, p. 82. B-51.

[33] 1845 Yamhill County, Oregon, census; original at Oregon State Archives, Salem, Oregon

[34] Julie Kidd, *1845 Census of the Territory South of the Columbia and West of the Cascade Mountains* (Portland: Oregon Territorial Press, 1997), 1.

[35] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest: St. Louis* (Portland, OR: Binford & Mort, 1982), Vol. I, p. 6, S-15.

[36] See "Amable Petit, St Paul Verger, and Suzanne Tawaka, Iroquois Indian, and their family," https://spmhs.com/articles/SPMHSAmablePetit.pdf.

[37] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Vol. I, p 116, M-14.

[38] Lottie Gurley, comp. *Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims*, Abstracted; Volumes I-III, 1845-1849 (Portland: The Genealogical Forum of Portland, 1982), Foreword.

[39] Lottie Gurley, comp. *Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims*, p. 57.

[40] Lottie Gurley, comp. *Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims*, p. 5.

[41] Lottie Gurley, comp. *Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims*, p. 257.

[42] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul*, Vol. I, p. 15, M-1.

[43] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul*, Vol. I, p. 24, B-38.

[44] Bruce McIntyre Watson*, Lives Lived West of the Divide A Biographical Dictionary of Fur Traders Working West of the Rockies 1793 – 1858* (Kelowna, B.C.; Centre for Social, Spatial and Economic Justice, University of British Columbia Okanagan, 2010), 70.

[45] 1850 Marion County, Oregon Territory, census, p. 76, dwelling 38, family 38, *Ancestry*.

[46] 1850 Marion County, Oregon Territory, census, p 148, dwelling 15, family 15, Amable Petit and dwelling 16, family 16, Joechim Lafarte; *Ancestry*,

[47] Treaty with the Konnaack Band of the Chinook, 1851, Tribal Treaties Database; https://treaties.okstate.edu/treaties/treaty-with-the-konnaack-band-of-the-chinook-1851-22527

[48] Fred Lockley*, History of the Columbia River Valley From The Dalles to the Sea* (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Pub., 1928), pp 84-5; *HathiTrust*; https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015021226439&seq=11

[49] Treaty Made and Concluded at Tansey Point near Clatsop Plains, 8 August 1851 between Anson Dart, Sup. Ind. Affairs & Others, on the part of the U.S. and the Konnaack Band of the Chinook Tribe of Indians , *Chinook Story*; https://chinookstory.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/konaack-treaty.pdf

[50] "Evidence for Proposed Finding against Federal Acknowledgment of the Tchinouk Indians of Oregon," (United States Department of the Interior, Office of Federal Acknowledgment, 1985), 18; https://www.bia.gov/sites/default/files/media_document/052_pf.pdf.

[51] Gabriel Franchere, *Narrative of a Voyage to Northwest Coast of America In The Years 1811, 1812, 1813, and 1814 of The First American Settlement on The Pacific* (Redfield, 110 and 112 Nassau Street, New York, 1854); https://user.xmission.com/~drudy/mtman/html/franchere/index.html.

[52] W. A. Slacum, U.S.N., Chart of the Columbia River for 90 miles from its mouth. (1837), *LOC.gov*; https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3700m.gct00284/?sp=184&r=0.052,0.158,0.899,0.404,0.

[53] Henry B. Zenk, Yvonne P. Hajda, and Robert T. Boyd, *Chinookan Villages of the Lower Columbia* (Thesis); PDXScholar; https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1092&context=anth_fac.

[54] "Treaty with the Lower Band of the Chinook, 1851," Oklahoma State University, Libraries, Tribal Treaty Database; https://treaties.okstate.edu/treaties/treaty-with-the-lower-band-of-the-chinook-1851-22261. "Summary under the Criteria and Evidence for Proposed Finding Against Federal Acknowledgment of the Chinook Indian Tribe, Inc.," Bia.gov; https://www.bia.gov/sites/default/files/media_document/057_pf.pdf.

[55] Rolls of Certain Indian Tribes, p. 25.

[56] Rolls of Certain Indian Tribes, p.11.

[57] George Gibbs to the Secretary of the Interior, *FamilySearch* DGS 8276177, image 117; citing List of Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1842 – 1880, Oregon Superintendency, NARA M234, reel 607, image 692 and 693.

[58] David G. Lewis, "1851 Census of the Chinook tribe of Indians," in "Early Counts of Western Oregon Tribal Peoples," NDNhistoryresearch; https://ndnhistoryresearch.com/2017/09/24/early-counts-of-western-oregon-tribal-peoples/1851-1-chinook-census/.

[59] Oregon Donation Land Claim #1735, Alexis Aubichon, Oregon City Land Office; citing National Archives microfilm publication M815, roll not given; digital images, Genealogical Forum of Oregon; https://gfo.org/.

[60] Butteville Timeline; https://butteville.org/pdf/Butteville-Timeline_panels-11-x-17_Ver-2.pdf.

[61] Butteville sketch by John Jameson, Rene Vancouver's Pacific Northwest History, *Facebook*; https://www.facebook.com/groups/1550712771903105.

[62] Marion County, Oregon, Deeds, Vol 1: 325.

[63] Marion County, Oregon, Deeds, Vol 1: 22.

[64] 1854 Marion County, Oregon tax list; originals at Oregon State Archives, Salem.

[65] Felix Roy vs. Philomene Roy, Marion County Divorce, #1105; original at Oregon State Archives, Salem.

[66] Weekly Oregon Statesman, 19 July 1859, p. 3.

[67] *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, 31 Jan 1860, p. 3.

[68] 1860 Marion County, Oregon, federal census, Santiam Pct, Salem Post Office, page 429, dwelling 4034, family 3415, A O'Bushaw; *Ancestry.*

[69] "Domestic Items," *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, 24 December 1860, p. 2.

[70] Marion County Deeds, Vol. 6, p. 421.

[71] *Historical Atlas Map of Marion & Linn Counties, Oregon* (San Francisco; Edgar Williams & Co, 1878), 28.

[72] Alexcie and Mary Ann Aubichon Marion County, Oregon, 1867 estate, #343; originals at Oregon State Archives.

[73] Harriet Duncan Munnick, St. Paul, Oregon 1839–1898, Vol. I, p. 16, S-9.

[74] L. R. Williams, *Our Pacific County* (Raymond, Washington: The Raymond Herald, 1930), 16.

https://wagenweb.org/pacific/bios_our_pacific_county.pdf.

[75] Rolls of Certain Indian Tribes, Statement No. 26, Mrs. Mary Petit, of Ilwaco, p.33. 1880 Washington Mortality FamilySearch; https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHK-Q3P2--9GM?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3A6T9L-TR85&action=view&cc=1420441&lang=en.

[76] Marie Ann "Marianne" Elmermach Aubichon, *FindAGrave*.