

Final Report to the State of Montana:



American Indian Battle Sites in Western Montana, a Protection for Ancient Places Through Modern Technology

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| METHODOLOGY | 3 |
| LITERATURE REVIEW | 3 |
| ORAL HISTORY | 5 |
| FIELD DOCUMENTATION | 6 |
| GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM -GIS | 9 |
| RESULTS..... | 10 |
| <i>Samples of Eliminated References</i> | <i>13</i> |

Introduction

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe's (CSKT) Tribal Historic Preservation Department (THPO) received funding from the State of Montana in the spring of 2009. This funding was awarded through their Montana Land Information Act (MLIA) grant overseen by the Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC). Primary deliverable of this funding was for CSKT's THPO to locate, document and record via a Geographic Information System (GIS) the location and characteristics of these battle sites. The purpose of this project is to preserve and protect these unique cultural and archaeological resources through modern technology. The recordation of these sites will streamline the federally mandated process of conducting archaeological and cultural resource inventories prior to land disturbing events on federal land, projects funded with federal money and/or federally permitted projects.

Methodology

The CSKT conducted the research for this grant in 4 distinct categories. First there was a literature search that gathered all the resources available. The Oral histories and Interviews phase allowed the CSKT to uncover details about events, or lead to further research in areas suggested by the Oral history component. Field work was another element of the research that allowed the CSKT to ground truth some of the findings in the oral history and literature search. Finally, the GIS put the data together in a graphical representation and added hotlinking to allow SHPO to easily review information that we have compiled.

Literature Review

The Archives for the Tribal Historic Preservation Department are an outgrowth of the Kootenai and Salish Pend d'Oreille Culture Committees efforts beginning in the late 1970's. There has been a steady growth of information entrusted to the Department. These databases consist of the Historic Reports 1-1000 Database, Historic Reports 1001-2000 Database, the CSKT Site Registry Database, and the Preservation Archives. The Preservation Archives contain the Archaeological Reports, Newspaper Articles, Oral Histories and Maps Tables. There are now over 5500 references available in these Databases and over 4800 site forms. There are very strict

guidelines to access the databases. They are not available on line and use of the documents is in office only.

The Battlefields Grant queried each one of these databases and tables in the search for information using the keywords: battle, war, warfare, ambush, skirmish, raid, fight, steal, guns, theft, attack and massacre. The results of this search were exported to a word document. Initial processing removed duplications that were created by references listing duplicate keywords such as skirmish and attack. Both of the keywords were high-lighted in one entry and the other eliminated.

Results from the initial sort were then reduced based on project boundaries of Western Montana that included all of Montana from the Canadian line in the North, and east to the Continental divide. Then the documents were pulled from the SKPD archives and each was examined for the specific information for this grant. At that time documents were weeded out as being entirely too broad for this project or as being outside the project boundaries.

A second round of examination was conducted with a hard copy map; this was to remove multiple references to the same site. At this time another round of references were eliminated as being too vague.

In conclusion, the Battle sites grant has allowed a deeper examination of the databases and tables that comprise the Salish Kootenai Tribal Historic Departments Archive. Various spelling errors were located and corrected and new information was found and entered into the Database tables. This project will not only help protect tribal aboriginal territory but lead to new avenues of research that will continue to benefit the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Mary Adele Rogers was research team leader; the data she compiled was the bases for how our field surveys were formulated. All pertinent information was catalogued in a Microsoft Access database and delivered to the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). These surveys were dependent on several variables and included multiple lines of inquiry to become successful. Often times field visits included cited literature, previous field survey data, digital ortho-quad imagery, topography maps and Elder knowledge.

Oral History

All field visits, results, and decisions were shared with and approved by Elders of the tribe. Often times Mike Durglo Sr. accompanied the field crew to supervise the survey and contribute TEK and history of the site area and its surrounding landscape. Mike is a Pend d'Oreille tribal member, Elder of the CSKT, and member of the Salish-Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee in addition to being the Mapping Team Leader for CSKT's THPO. Additional field visits were undertaken by Kootenai Cultural Specialist Francis Auld. Francis oversaw field visits in the Big Draw area in conjunction with Mike. Francis was able to contribute TEK that was invaluable to the location and recordation process.

This is a table showing some of the research that was done with the assistance of the MLIA Battle Sites grant. It shows the Salish words for some common implements that may be encountered in researching battle sites.

| <i>Séliš/Ŧlispé Battle Tools and Clothing</i> | |
|---|--|
| <i>English Name</i> | <i>Salish and Pend d'Oreille Name</i> |
| Arrow with the head of stone | Snsenlstn |
| Arrow with the head of bone | Snsčmalstn |
| Arrow with the head of iron | Snulullmuslstn |
| Arrow | Ŧapmín |
| Quiver for arrows | Snq ^o Ŧté |
| Bow string | Čacinčtn |
| A Bow | Čk ^o inč |
| Spear/Lance | Smúlmn |
| Shield | SŦe |
| Small Shield | SŦečst |
| Coup Stick | Spmintu |
| Tomahawk | Łšlmín |
| War Club | Něčaqey |
| Sword | Čulula |
| Knife | Łní |
| Knife Sheath | Síní |
| Dagger | Xtátme |
| Rifle | Sululmí |
| Rifle Sheath | Snq ^o Ŧté |
| Pistol | Ntqnčstéle |
| Musket Ball | Hmímúľq ^o |
| Bullet | Snč ^o i |
| Flint | Olóle |
| Stone for tools | Snčlelstn |
| Battle | Splstwex ^o or Čšnlntlwex ^o |
| Battle-field | Snplstwex ^o tn |
| Indian Fort | Smítu |
| War Paint | Yucmn |
| Scout | Č ^o tíut ^o ul |
| Lookouts | Šínmsčín |
| Man Warrior | Sx ^o plstwé |
| Man's War Shirt | Slíklqs |
| Buckskin War Shirt | Sččpapaqls ^o a |
| Woman Warrior | Šínmsči |
| Woman's War Shirt | Sšinmči |
| War Dance | Wenš |

Field documentation

Field requirements for this grant consisted of the location, documentation, and site form creation for battle locations. Field surveys were carried out under the supervision of Ira L. Matt, Field Crew Supervisor for CSKT's THPO. Ira has worked for the THPO since 2004, in addition to Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Ira has been conducting natural resource management for CSKT since 2000 through the Forestry and Division of Fire (DoF) offices at CSKT.

Field surveys were dictated by prior research conducted through the THPO. Mary Adele Rogers was head of the research team that included Mike Durglo Sr., Marcia Pablo, Clarinda Burke, Ira L. Matt and other staff members. Upon presentation of the research, the field crew prioritized the potential site locations on a number of criteria.

- The perceived ability to locate features, artifacts and/or site locations was the first criteria. Those with potential received a higher priority ranking than those without.
- Sites that were vague as to their location were placed further down on the list than those that related specific directions or physical landmarks.
- The ability to access locations, both physically and by land ownership restrictions. Locations available for survey received a higher ranking than those requiring permission to access. Sites requiring less time to access received a higher ranking than those requiring a large input of time to locate.

The reasoning associated with prioritizing the potential battle sites was tied to funding. Field surveys are an involved process that utilized from 2-4 staff members to conduct. Prior to field visits potential site locations went through pre-field mapping to evaluate the landscape, potential site/feature location, and access to the area. A literature review of the supporting documentation was conducted in an effort to garner leads that would help isolate the survey area and to gain a prospect into the types of features and/or artifacts the crew needed to be aware of. Within this process Elder communication played a key role. Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) of the area is information not housed in archives or forms. TEK is “a cumulative body of knowledge, practice, and belief, evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission. It concerns the relationships of living beings (including human) with one another and with their environment (Berkes, 2000).” Information of this nature allowed context

to be applied to the sites being visited. With an understanding of context the crew was further able to document site areas based on the relationship between the site, the people and the landscape. For example, the crew may locate a site area, but why was it located there? TEK allows an integration of sources to converge. Trails data, tribal history information and coyote/creation/legend stories became integrated into this process. While much of TEK is not public knowledge, it does benefit the public in the ways it influences recordation. Expanded protection areas around battle pits relate to the trail access utilized by historical foes. Their placement and dispersal are dictated by historically known routes utilized in specific seasons by particular group types. How battles were conducted, the reasons for these encounters, implements utilized and cultural events related to these happenings are all knowledge that the Tribal Elders hold. Literary sources are biased and often represent the dominant perspective, as a result CSKT's THPO attempts to ensure reliability and validity of our work through the cross-checking of multiple source types.

Upon completion of the data review and compilation process undertaken by the field crew field, recordation equipment is selected and prepared for site recordation. These tools include GPS units, printed aerial/topographic/historic maps, calipers, measuring tapes, voice recorders, digital cameras, field-note tablets, safety equipment and a vehicle. In-field recordation involved the assigning of duties to crew members, survey, and recordation.

The survey portion of the field process varied by site location and the site leads. In most situations a pedestrian transect survey was conducted that involved crew members walking the potential site area in a regulated manner while looking for battle pits, artifacts, stone cairns, hearths and other cultural resources. If location was successful, the team utilized the gear brought with them to record feature measurements, its location, integrity, surrounding elements and potential threats amongst other relevant information. The ability to locate site leads resulted in roughly a 75% success rate throughout the entirety of the field survey process. Initial surveys relied heavily on historic documentation that was often inaccurate, resulting in a slow start to location. As the pre-field survey methodology refined itself, success in locating battle sites increased substantially.

Completion of the field recordation process marked the beginning of data compilation as it related to the site forms. These forms are Montana State certified recordation files that record

both the sites cultural and natural data. Photographs of the survey results are included in these forms as are site maps created through ESRI's ArcGIS9.3. The field crew supervisor was responsible for site form creation, photo input and site map creation. Data included in the forms resulted in a 2-6 page document that has 2-8 pages of photo documentation and 2-3 map attachments. Aerial and topographic maps marking the sites location were included with all site forms. Some forms received additional maps marking roads and developments to help future researchers understand the potential threats these sites are facing. All data included is aimed at streamlining the Section106 process, informing the recipients to this data of the sites parameters and cultural value, and being a complete enough package so that future research is not needed in time sensitive situations.

Creation of the prospective site forms was an outgrowth of non-field visited site locations. These were areas on our survey list that were not visited due to restrictions on field time. Due to the high potential some of these site leads held, it was decided that "Prospective Site Forms" should be created for future surveys. This data will enable the same streamlining of the 106 process due to the information these forms contain. Supporting historical documentation is the basis for these forms, other information contained within will reduce future expenditures of time concerning the location and documentation process when these sites are visited. Montana's NRIS webpage was utilized to assist in procuring legal coordinates and to help identify ownership of these parcels. As with the visited site locations, all areas were plotted in the GIS database layer marking their locations for future reference. The database team, field crew and GIS operator were all involved in the documentation, description and/or mapping of these forms.

Completion of the field process resulted in the recordation of 8 site areas that hosted 23+ features. 16 prospective site forms and 2 site addendum forms were created. As related in prior quarterly reports, battle features relating to Native Americans are rare and vanishing. The ability of our research and field crews to locate documentation and physical remains of these site areas is a huge contribution to the archaeological record. With time the prospective site forms will encounter utilization in lieu of ground disturbing processes. At that time the compilation of data and maps will provide those people in charge of conducting the cultural resource surveys a jumping off point for protecting these unique sites. At this time 23+ features are protected, preservation of their integrity and associations will be a priority amongst those offices entrusted with their data.

Geographical Information System -GIS

The project entailed creating a GIS feature layer consisting of the results from the Battle sites research. This feature was created in a geodatabase and when mapped in relation to other base layers it enhances the display capabilities of that research conducted by the CSKT Preservation Department. A GIS will enable a dynamic and interactive method of searching and displaying data.

While on site, decisions to polygon or create individual points varied by terrain and the potential protection needed. In select circumstances the GPS unit was unable to gain satellite reception due to the steep hills that arose on three sides of the site. As a result the site was digitized into our database based on field mapping and the local knowledge of the landscape. In scenarios where the sites were recorded via polygon or point with our Trimble Pro XRS GPS, the site maps may still have digitized boundaries. This is the result of post-field data analysis. The feature themselves are indicative only of the physical remnants, the site itself may extend out far beyond the boundaries dictated while in the field.

In the office the data was integrated into CSKT's database. A GIS layer was created that is transferable to the Montana SHPO that contained the site areas and their corresponding forms, photos and maps. To create this data layer, base layers such as towns, streams and lakes, and highways were brought into a map which gave a geographical reference for digitizing the research results. The map's spatial reference was set to NAD 83 State plane FIPS 2500 as shown in the metadata for the data. Metadata was produced for data created in-house.

Polygons were created using GPS positions, Site forms, and Site Lead forms. All GPS positions gathered from the field were placed on the map and used in digitizing feature polygons. Site forms were reviewed and positions were ascertained from the site descriptions. All Site forms that had been gathered from the research had been digitized and linked to the feature on the map. Site leads were also reviewed for geological potential. Those that were determined to have a determinable location were digitized and linked to polygons. Again, these polygons were digitized from the descriptions given in the text.

After all the polygons were digitized, 'hot-linking' was enabled so that the user is able to ascertain the details and information of a place by the point and click of the mouse. A field was

created that contains the filename of the 'hotlinked' file and all associated linked files are included on the DVD for the Montana SHPO.

The CSKT will continue to manage this data for future purposes. If funding becomes available at a later date, We may pursue the potential to isolate the determinate variables of the Big Draw battle pits in an effort to create a predictive model capable of assisting the tribes and possibly other agencies in preserving and protecting these features. As noted in prior quarterly reports, these are rare features that are difficult to locate and are vastly underrepresented within the archaeological record due to a lack of knowledge and funding aimed at their protection. Our hope is to contribute to the location of these sites through the data we have collected, a process that our GIS database can contribute to.

Results

Contributions to the SHPO and THPO databases will include 8 site areas that were fully documented. At these 8 sites 23 features were recorded. Fourteen prospective site locations were identified and evaluated. Two prospective sites were re-evaluated and classified as a site addendums in lieu of their prior recordation. Four prospective site leads were dropped from our listing and will not be included within our GIS and/or Access database. The reason for their removal was tied to our office's strict policy regarding data and site leads. These 4 sites did not sufficiently provide supporting documentation and/or were too vague in their site areas. Our objective here was to locate new areas not known within the archaeological record, to gather and document locations of sites not currently represented within the archaeological record and/or to add information to current sites receiving protection that may need additional documentation to ensure the full spectrum of cultural resources are protected.

The results of this grant are being sent to the SHPO on September 20th 2010. These will include a copy of the Access and GIS database, affiliated site form and prospective site form documentation, photographs, site maps and report. Confirmation of receipt will be obtained and forwarded onto Stewart Kirkpatrick MLIA grant administrator.

The success of this grant was made possible by the State of Montana; your funding was utilized to ensure the preservation of this nation's cultural resources. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Preservation Office would like to thank you for supporting the

protection of these resources. This office appreciates your generosity and the trust you had in us to complete the work. We hope for a long and mutually beneficial relationship in the future.

LemImtsv
Hu Sukiz Kukni
Thank-you

Sources Cited

Berkes, Fikret

2008 Sacred Ecology: Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Resource Management, 2nd edition. New York: Routledge

Samples of Eliminated References

The following are the last references to be eliminated. Most of the research is too vague to be able to determine an exact location. In some cases the reference simply lists the Bitterroot Valley as the Battle site. Others provide a stream name but lack the precise location of the battle. Or the reference states that the tribal members were crossing a ridge when they meet a hostile group. While the information is fascinating and generally useful, pinpointing the location is not possible from the references on hand at this time. These references refer to locations on and off reservation. This last elimination was done with much discussion, map searching and contemplation. It is worth noting that with more intensive research and luck in the future these sites maybe found. We now realize we did not give ourselves enough time with this grant. With more time and resources we may have been able to gain an insight to the locations of at least a few of these citations.

Badger Pass: “. . . having been informed by some Cootanaha’s that a Battle had been fought between a party of Flatt Head Indians, with whom a Mr. McDonald clerk to the N.Wt.Coy was in company, and a party of Muddy river[Missouri] Indians, in which the latter were defeated with the loss of 14 Men killed. . . . “ “ The Piegan-Flathead battle took place in July 1810 probably in the neighborhood of Badger Pass.” Braunberger, A. Berry & Thain White 1964 *Howse House An examination of the Historical and Archaeological Evidence The Washington Archaeologist April & July 1964 vol III # 2 &3 p. 14-15.*

This reference was eliminated due to its vague nature: We had questions as to which Badger Pass and what was the exact location of the battle . Since we could not answer these questions it was not possible to location this reference on the ground.

Big Blackfoot River: “The New North West reported a disagreement between a party of Flathead Indians and some miners from the Whippoorwill district on a fishing expedition near Lincoln Gulch and the Big Blackfoot River. The disagreement resulted in the death of an Indian and a white man.” Anonymous “An Indian Row” *The New Northwest* 07/18/1879 p. 3 col. 2.

This is a reference that would have been useful if it had just a little more information. If given a longer length of time we may have been able to locate the Whippoorwill district was located on Lincoln Gulch and the Blackfoot River. We would need to find the answers such as, Where near Lincoln Gulch? Was the Tribal member buried there or taken back to the Bitterroot Valley?

From Mr. G. R. Simpson on the Big Blackfoot, eight miles from Yreka. Peter Matte stole 20 horses from the Flathead chief in the Bitterroot and was heading for Canada when he met another band of Flathead who recognized the horses and took them back. Matte got away and then stole from Simpson and was then captured. After being let loose he headed for Missoula.

This article was long and involved, however it was lacking on the fine details that would have allowed the field crew to pinpoint the location.

Big Hole Valley: *“These eleven Flatheads overtook the thieves and the horses at Moose creek on Big Hole River, and killed two of them. There were four Bannocks in the party. . . . The Flatheads said they could have killed the other two Bannocks, but let them go as a warning to the rest of their tribe. Only one of them offered to fight. San Pablo (St. Paul) took his bow away from him and told him to “go” and he went.” Stuart, Granville, Forty Years on the Frontier 1925 Arthur H. Clark Co., Cleveland p. 177.*

This was a very long reference, but again the question is where on Moose Creek of the Big Hole River. The article is lacking in the details needed for an exact location,

“This afternoon, intelligence has arrived from another camp that one Flat Head was killed and one had his arm broken by a party of about fifteen Black Feet that were in ambush in the Big Hole on Sablok’s Fork.” Johnson, Donald R. William H. Gray: Journal of His Journey East, 1836-1837 1980 Galleon Press, Fairfield WA p. 32-33.

Again the question is; Where was the battle on Sablok’ Fork? Was it located on the East bank, or West bank, or at the mouth where it flows into the Big Hole?

“Once a fight occurred in the Big Hole Valley between Flathead and Blackfoot at a time when war parties of the latter were constantly appearing in the Flathead country. A party of Flathead

numbering about 150 and including many women and children, under Chief Big-Eagle, had separated from the main body of the Flathead, and were traveling south. As they came over the top of a ridge they discovered a Blackfoot party of about 200 warriors.” While a parley was being held, a Blackfeet stole the bow of Chief Big-Eagle. He went to the Blackfeet camp to ask for it back and was killed. After a battle, the Flathead camp retreated to the main body of the Flathead nation. The Flathead warriors were unable to find the Blackfeet when they went to look for them. Teit, James A. and Franz Boas The Salishan Tribes of the Western Plateaus 1928 Forty-fifth annual report, Bureau American Ethnology p. 362.

Again an article that lacks the necessary fine details for location, which ridge were the Flatheads “coming over the top” of? Where was the main body of the Flathead Tribe camped?. Where was Chief Big-Eagle buried? Could he be buried at the site or was he taken back to St. Mary’s Mission?

The Bitterroot Valley is well known to be the homeland of the Bitterroot Salish people. The references to the Salish in the valley are to be expected but in the following reference the question is where did the Snake Indians attack from? Was it in the north or the south, east or west of the valley? It would be expected that they would come from the south, because that is where they were located geographically, but this can not be determined.

Bitterroot Valley: *“Once long ago a war party of Snake attacked the Flathead in Bitterroot Valley, but they were driven off with considerable loss and never came back.” Teit, James A. and Franz Boas The Salishan Tribes of the Western Plateaus 1928 Forty-fifth annual report, Bureau American Ethnology p. 360.*

“Most soldiers stationed at Fort Missoula saw little, if any, combat. However, in July 1878, a band of Indians committed several killings in the Bitterroot Valley. Lieutenant Wallace and a mounted detachment of some fifteen troopers set out in pursuit. On July 21, the Indians were engaged in battle; six were killed, three wounded. Wallace’s force suffered no casualties.” Miller, Don & Stan Cohen Military & Trading Posts of Montana.

As stated earlier, both these references beg the question where in the Bitterroot Valley?

Town of Blackfoot: *“A band of Pen d’Oreilles who were going to buffalo, passed through Blackfoot on the 22nd, and the next day forty-five of Al. Peacock’s band of horses were missing. Al mounted and came up on their camp near Dana’s Bar, and found six of his horses in their possession. They denied stealing them, claiming to have re-captured them from the Blackfeet, which in all probability is a lie. The result of this kind of work will probably be the shooting down of a lot Indians and a general war with the “friendlies”.*” Anonymous *“Local Brevities,” The New Northwest, October 1, 1869 p. 3.*

With more time and resources we may have been able to determine where Al Peacock’s ranch or farm was located and could have tried to determine where this activity took place. All the locations in this reference were just a little too vague to be found. It was also a questions that this type of reference did not fit into the criteria of a battle, skirmish or fight.

“Mr. C. G. Birdseye, of Blackfoot, informs us there is a party of Indians from the Jocko Agency in the vicinity of Blackfoot, who are making much trouble to the people. By some means they get whiskey and are very insolent and ill-behaved. It is not safe to leave houses unprotected, not women alone.” Anonymous *“Local Brevities,” The New Northwest, June 26, 1885 p 3, col. 3.*

For this reference exactly where “in the vicinity of Blackfoot” were the tribal members? It was also decided that this did not quite fit the description of the battle, skirmish or fight sections that were the criteria for the grant.

Bob Marshall Wilderness: *Murder of a 13 year old girl by Blackfeet. Oral History tape OH-0121 interview with Louie Adams, 2001.*

Here again the location in the oral history was too vague to determine where in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Cut Bank Pass: *very long article about a Blackfeet warrior named Mad Wolf who lead an expedition across the mountains against the Flatheads, two of his brothers turned back before they got to Flathead country. Mad Wolf and his party were returning via Cut Bank Pass when they discovered a war party of Kootenais coming back from Blackfeet territory.*

Mad Wolf and his party ambushed them, on the Kootenai leaders belt Mad Wolf recognized his brothers' scalps. The Blackfeet killed all the Kootenai except one old woman whom they sent back to her people. Anonymous Mad Wolf, Last Great Orator, Chief of Old-Time Fighting Blackfeet The Plainsman vol XXIV #20 p. 3 08/09/1923.

This reference was a very long and fascinating read but entirely too vague as to the location of the battle.

“In August the Selish went to the hunting grounds accompanied by two free trappers, Michel Bourdeaux and Michel Kinville, of French origin. The Piegans were guarding the pass and met them in desperate battle. Both white men were killed and many natives were wounded or killed on either side. The Selish loss was so great that they were forced to withdraw to a place where they could hunt in safety. On Cut Bank creek is a great pile of stones covering the bones of a party of Selish Indians who met defeat at the hands of the Piegans there so many years ago that legend does not remember when.” Murray, Genevieve Marias Pass: Its Part in the History and Development of the Northwest Studies in Northwest History No.12, State University of Montana, Missoula p. 16.

With more time and resources we may be able to survey the entire Cut Bank Creek to try to find a large rock pile that would pertain to this reference. But due to time and budget constraints it was not possible to try to find this location.

Deerlodge: *“In February 1862, two Flatheads killed a Snake Indian . . . near Cottonwood (Deerlodge) and took one of his wives captive.” Meschter, Dan Flint Chips part 39, Phillipsburg Mail.*

The location was too broad to be found: Where on Cottonwood did this occur?

“There was a similar case of vandalism somewhere on the Deer Lodge road the next year: ‘ Henry Inkamp tells us that on Sunday a band of Flatheads entered and completely ransacked the cabin of Messers. Smith and Spence, halfway over the grade to Phillipsburg, during the absence of its owners. The raid was discovered on Monday and a hot pursuit instituted by the boys and

their friends. After a lively chase the raiders were overtaken. Captain Joe, one of the other and twelve Indian horses were taken into custody and brought to Philipsburg' August 8, 1874." Meschter, *Dan Flint Chips part 92, Phillipsburg Mail.*

With more time and resources it may be possible to located an approximate location for this altercation. It would have to be determined where the homestead was located then to calculate which direction the Indians were going. But due to the vagueness, this reference had to be dropped.

Dixon: *Coonsah: "He was a notoriously bad character and having lost caste with his own people (Flatheads) spent much of his time among the Blackfeet. He was later killed at Dixon, Mont., in a quarrel and was buried on a little hill just east of town."* Murray, *Genevieve Marias Pass: Its Part in the History and Development of the Northwest Studies in Northwest History No.12, State University of Montana, Missoula p.45-46.*

There are several hills just east of Dixon, and there would have to be more research done to determine where this burial could be located. It also did not fit into the criteria of a skirmish, fight, or battle.

Kootenai River: *"During that winter of 1828-29, Pilcher visited Flathead House and exchanged about half of his pelts for supplies. He purchased some horses, then headed back toward Flathead Lake and points north, going into Kutenai country, which probably up to then had never seen an American trader. But late in the spring, some Indians, unidentified, stole his horses and killed one of his men on the Kutenai River."* Chance, *David The Fur Trade of the Upper Columbia River 1792-1871 1995 BPA & National Park Service.*

Again this was too broad an area to attempt a location. Where on the Kootenai River? In the Canadian or Montana Territory? On the East bank or the West Bank?

Lavelle Creek *while we did travel to this area it is now private property. While staff was making a preliminary oversight view of the site they were followed while in the area. Although it was*

believed that some probable battle scars were visible, as mentioned in the report, staff members could not gain access to the area.

Lincoln: *Revenge killing of white for killing Tribal member. Anonymous "The Lincoln Murders: Another Indian Version of the Affair" Missoulian 8/1/1879 p. 3.*

This reference was entirely too vague to be attempted. This reference is directly related to the incidents at Scribner, mentioned later in this section.

Missoula Valley was another well known use area of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai. There are historic photographs of encampments in the valley. This was a place to gather the bitterroot plant and to come together with other tribes such as the Nez Perce. They would hold races and games of skill between tribes, much like a celebration. The areas of the University of Montana, The Northgate and Southgate Malls, the Fair grounds and Fort Missoula area were well known campsites.

There were unfortunate times in Missoula as well the original court house in Missoula was the site of the hanging of four tribal members in 1890.

Nyack Creek: *"Having been forced to kill several Blackfeet who attacked them, they sought this Kootenai camp, where they were offered protection. Knowing that the Blackfeet would soon find them, the chiefs called a council with reference to which route they should travel over the divide to their own lands. . . . it was decided to take a more southern trail, leading across Red Eagle pass a few miles north of Cut Bank and dropping down onto the Marias pass trail at the mouth of Nyack Creek. . . . Again they were attacked but no real fighting was done until the morning of the second day, just as the Kootenais were emerging from a wood at the foot of the main divide where the Blackfeet had hoped to ambush them." Murray, Genevieve Marias Pass: Its Part in the History and Development of the Northwest Studies in Northwest History No.12, State University of Montana, Missoula.*

This was a very long and involved reference and in the end it was decided that it was just too vague for a pinpoint location.

Piquett Creek: *“At one time they had engaged in battle with the Snake Indians when that tribe had come down Piquette Creek.” Bitterroot Valley Historical Society 1982 Bitterroot Trails vol. I & II Bitterroot Valley Historical Society, p. 153.*

With more resources and time we may have been able to follow Piquette Creek to a logical point of ambush or battle but this would be pure conjecture. We discussed this reference and it was decided that it was just too vague to be located for this study.

Rock Creek: *Referring to Bitterroot Valley settler W. B. Harlan “When he was digging a ditch out of Rock Creek, he uncovered an Indian skeleton which had been buried in a sitting position. The skull was hung on a limb where the wagon road forded Rock Creek and remained there for some time.”*

While this reference was extremely disturbing we do not know if the burial was due to any skirmish, battle, or fight the death could have been from illness or old age. This reference was again lacking in details to pinpoint a location or to determine if it was the result of any type of battle.

Rye Creek: *was the site of a battle between the Bitterroot Salish who were traveling with a party of Nez Perce and the Snakes: “. . . the Snakes got reinforcements and followed them to Rye Creek. They whipped the Snakes again and drove them up the canyon towards Ross Hole.” Bitterroot Valley Historical Society 1982 Bitterroot Trails vol. I & II Bitterroot Valley Historical Society, p. 142.*

This site was deemed to vague to pin point an exact location. This is because Rye Creek crosses more then three sections of land. We may have been able to find a canyon that leads into Ross Hole, but this again would be pure conjecture.

Scribner: *“Near the ferry boat on the road from Big Fork to Kailspell two women were killed by the Blackfeet, wives of two Finleys. One was Bason Finley and the other was John Finley. About five years later the latter was killed at a place called Scribner, Below Demersville, by a man named Allen. This man would not give up himself to Chief Eneas. The chief gave orders to his Indian police to kill him because he would not surrender. So the Indians went ahead of Allen, O’Neal and Nolan, as they were driving horses for the north into Canada. These men*

were ambushed at a place called Allen's Prairie and shot dead for killing John Finley. Allen was killed in summer of 1875 and the two women in 1867." McDonald, Duncan Letter to Mr. T. D. Duncan, Duncan McDonald Papers SC429 Folder 1/1 Montana Historical Society Archives.

“. . . a party of white men, consisting of Jack Allen, James Nolan and Neil Campbell were murdered by the Kootenai Indians about 20 miles for Scribner and their property taken.” Anonymous Three men killed by Kootenai Indians The New Northwest pg 2 col. 2 09/24/1875.

Other references refer to this incident as being at Flathead Lake, Anonymous Missoula Indian Affairs The New Northwest 9-24-1875 p. 2 col. 2 and Anonymous No title The New Northwest 10-1-1875 p. 2 col. 1.

While there are multiple mentions of this incident in the historic record they each cover such a broad area and all lack the information for exact location.

St. Mary's Mission: *“. . . September 12, 1849, a war party of fifty Blackfeet approached St. Mary's. Father Ravalli was the only missionary there; he was concerned about running out of food to feed the Indians in his care. The Blackfeet did not attack the adobe mission because they did not know the strength of its occupants, but when the mission horses were released from the compound to graze, the Blackfeet showed themselves. They ran off the horses and killed the Indian boy with the herd.” Fahey, John The Flathead Indians University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 87.*

While this reference was interesting it was felt to be below the scope of the grant due to the fact that it was not a skirmish or a battle but more a murder of a young boy.

Thompson River: Capture of Pierre Paul *“Paul was camped on the headwaters of the Thompson River.” Pierre Paul had been accused of killing as many as 8 men. Johnson, Olga Weydemeyer The Story of the Tobacco Plains Country 1950 Published by The Pioneers of the Tobacco Plains Country, Caxton Printers, Caldwell Idaho p. 64-65.*

This was part of an important incident in tribal life, the reference mentions where Pierre Paul was camped, but not at the time he gained the reputation of killing 8 men. We don't know if it was a battle or skirmish or ambush or what any of the details surrounding this incident or

incidents were. The lack of pinpoint information lead to this reference being excluded from the grant.

Wolf Creek: *“It is alleged that these Kootenai Indians assisted a third Kootenai in killing three prospectors on Wolf Creek last June.” Missoulian April 5, 1888.*

There are multiple mentions of this incident in the historical record> It is referred to as Wolf Creek killings and Wolf Prairie murders. Once again we have no clear details of what happened. The lack of an exact location removed this reference from consideration.