Red River Migrations

Ogden's Tragedy at The Dalles - 1830

Tragedy at the Dalles, July 6, 1830

From "Traits of Indian Character" Life", published in 1853, and attributed to Ogden. The facts are his, though the writing may have been dressed up by someone, possibly Irving. Here taken from "Peter Skene Ogden, Fur Trader", by Archie Binns, 1967 (Binfords and Mort, Portland), pp 234-5.

It was the summer of 1830 that I arrived at the Dalles on my return to Vancouver (from his fifth Snake River Expedition), after an absence of eleven months, spent scouring the prairies in quest of beaver. I had a small party of trappers under mu command, and having left our horses at Walla Walla, where a crazy boat had been furnished us, we had reached thus far on our descent without an accident of any sort . . .

Now that necessity forced a portage on them, the active crew speedily overcame the obstacle, and the boat again floated in safety below. The heat was intense; and though the breakfast hour was gone by, the stench of putrefying salmon was so overpowering that I resolved on proceeding a few miles lower down. . . Accordingly, the men were directed to push off and prepare for this important event of the day at a spot indicated, while I resolved to saunter downward by land . . .

Scarcely had I set out when the men put forth, and began steering in an oblique direction across the stream, in order to avoid a string of whirlpools that for a short didtance impeded direct navigation . . . Suddenly, however, the way of the boat was checked; so abruptly, too, that the rowers were nearly thrown from their seats. Recovering their equilibrium, they bent to their oars with redoubled energy, but the craft yielded naught to their endeavors. The incipient gyrations of a huge whirlpool at the same instant began to be felt, holding the boat within its influence.

The vortex was rapidly forming, and the air was filled with a confused murmur, high above which might be heard the hoarse voice of the bowsman, shouting, "Ramez, ramez, ou nous sommes pais!" . . . yielding to its fatal attraction. The boat glided, at first slowly, into the whirling vortex; its prow rising fearfully as the pitiless waters hurried it round with increasing velocity . . .

The spot where the boat had disappeared no longer offered any mark whereby to note the sad catastrophe that had even now occurred there, the vortex was filled up, and its very site no longer distinguishable . . . A few moments more and the paddles, sitting-poles, and various other articles of a bouyant nature were cast up in all directions around, while here ant there, a struggling victim was discernible discoverable . . . One by one they disappeared, drawn down by the lesser vortices that continually formed and again as speedily filled up.

At the time I dared not hope that even one of my unfortunate companions had escaped; but it eventually proved that one of them, poor Baptiste, the steersman, had that good fortune. By seizing four empty kegs, lashed together, according to our mode of transport, the bouyancy of these vessels had floated him off, and the Indians picked him up some miles below the scene of the misfortune . . .

Pierre Grenier was one of those lost.

John Flett

Among the schemes of the Hudson's Bay Company, in 1839, and 1840, to acquire occupancy and secure British title to the territory on the north side of the Columbia River, was an immigration to the Cowlitz and Nisqually Plains from the Selkirk settlement in the Red River valley. It will be remembered that the Hudson's Bay Company was present in the territory west of the Rocky Mountains by virtue of a license of trade from the British Crown, which precluded it from acquiring landed possessions. The right was a mere tnancy for years. To evade this provision, the attempt was made to form the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, which, though not consummated, yet fostered this scheme of colonization and occupancy. Under its auspicies was founded the Red River Colony of 1841, of which John Flett, now an aged farmer residing on Steilacoom Plains in Pierce County (Washington) is the last survivor of the then married men or heads of families who, with their families, flocks, herds, and worldly possessions, constituted the Red River immigration to the Oregon Territory of 1841.

(Here follow several pages in Flett's own words, describing the arduous trip through Canada, with its Indian fights, swollen rivers, and all the usual hardships, coupled with disappointment in the end regarding the agricultural scheme.)

John Flett was born August 5, 1815, in Rupert's Land, about six hundred miles northeast of Manitoba, in the valley of the Red River of the North, his father then being in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company store for the Cumberland district. When John was about seven years of age the family removed to the Selkirk settlement, where he continued to reside until 1836, at which time he went to the site of the present city of St. Paul, Minnesota, there being at that date three houses where that great city is now erected. Having remained there during a short season, he went to Chicago, Illinois, and stayed there about a year, during which time he assissted as a bricklayer in the building of the third brick house erected in that city of phenominal progress.

In 1837 he returned to Manitoba, worked for a time as a blacksmith, and at intervals in hunting and trapping in the wilds of Minnesota and Dakota. In June, 1841, he joined the Red River colony and made the journey hereinabove described in his own language. In June, 1842, he settled in Washington County, Oregon, and was engaged in farming until 1854, when he accepted the position of Indian interpreter under General Joel Palmer, Superintendent of Indial Affairs in Oregon. His services in that capacity were very valuable, and much is due to Mr. Flettfor the successful negotiation of the treaties then made. As a recognition of those services, he was

First Migration

continued as interpreterand appointed also as sub-agent, in which capacity he went to Southern Oregon. Alone he visited the war camp of the Rogue River Indians and induced them to go upon the reservation. He visited the Indians at Crescent City and Port Orford. He accompanied General Palmer and Indian Agent Chris Taylor to Klamath Lake and the Modoc country, that being the first party who visited that region.

In all the meetings and councils of Superintendent Palmer with the Southern Oregon Indians, Mr. Flett accompanied him as interpreter; and on General Palmer going to the Walla Walla council, in June, 1855, Mr. Flett attended. He continued in the service of the Oregon superintendency for three years, and during that time executed many delicate and difficult missions, requiring courage and discretion. In 1859 he settled in South Prairie, in Pierce County, and engaged in farming. He remained there until 1868, when he purchased his present location near Lakeview (Washington), about six miles distant from Tacoma. From 1862 to 1878 he was employed upon the Puyallup Indian Reservation as farmer or interpreter.

He is a thorough Indian linguist, an adept at understanding the Indian character, and was long recognized as among the most efficient and valuable of the attaches of that department. He is a hale, vigorous man, with a family consisting of a wife and six children; and with a competency this fine old Christian gentleman is rounding off in comfort a long and busy life. (1889)

* * * * *

Comments: Flett was doubtless a metis, since his father was an employee stationed in the north, where alliances with native women were almost universal. He may have married a native or part-blood himself, for the "blurb" usually gives the name of a white wife, but passes lightly over Indian mates.

Several brothers are mentioned in the Red River group; three, it is usually claimed. All were married when they came west.

All the pages of Flett's account of the trip can be copied if any useful purpose would be served.

* * * * *

" Napoleon McGilvery (old HBC second generation) his marriage - - - Miss Sara, the daughter of William Flett, a woman of great personal attractions." . . . "There are four children in the family **Simon, Edward, Kate, and Susan."

Red River Migration, 1841 History of the Pacific Northwest, Vol. I pp229-30

On the 15th of June, 1841, twenty-three families, under the leadership of Captain James Sinclair, a clerk in the Hudson's Bay Company service, left Manitoba, Red River Territory, for Puget Sound. They had started twenty-eight days earlier than Sir George Simpson; and he and his little party overtook them on the sixteenth day out from Port Garry. Says he:'These emigrants consisted of agriculturalists and others, principally natives of Red River settlement. There were twenty-three families, the heads being young and active, though a few of them were advanced in life, more particularly one poor woman upwards of seventy-five years of age, who was following after her son to his new home. As a contrast to this superannuated daughter of the Saskatchewan, the band contained several very young travellers, who had, in fact, made their appearance in this world since the commencement of the journey. Beyond the inevitable detention which seldom exceeded a few hours, these interesting events had never interfered with the progress of the brigade; and both mother and child used to jog on, as if jogging on were the condition of human existence.

'Each family had two or three carts, together with bands of cattle, horses, and dogs. The men and lads travelled in the saddle, while the vehicles, which were covered with awnings against the sun and rain, carried the women and young children. As they marched in single file, their cavalcade extended above a mile in length; and we increased the length of the column by marching in company. The emigrants were all healthy and happy, living in the greatest abundance, and enjoying the journey with the highest relish. Before coming up to these people, we had seen evidence of the comfortable state of their commissariat in the shape of two or three still warm buffaloes, from which only the tongue and a few other choice bits had been taken.'

The train traveled along up the Bow River (south branch of the Saskatchewan) and crossed the Rocky Mountains at the confluence of two of the sources of the Saskatchewan and the Columbia rivers near Fort Kootenais, at an altitude of 8,000 feet. They left their carts on the east side at an abandoned post called the Mountain House. Treacherously deserted at Bow River by their guide, a half-breed of some education, they providentially met a Cree Indian, Bras Croche, who guided them through an excellent pass in the mountains, and continued with them to Nisqually. On the 5th of August they crossed the summit of the Rocky Mountains and reached Fort Walla Walla on the 4th of October. That night, or on the morning of the 5th, the fort took fire and was entirely consumed. These emigrants assissted

in moving the stock and effects; and by their opportune prescence most of the property was saved. One of the party had returned to Fort Edmonton, another switched off to California, and several families stopped at the Cowlitz Farm. Thirteen families arrived on the 8th of Novermer at NFort Nisqually, where they remained during the winter.

Complaints were made by the colonists that the company failed to comply with their contract. But one or two remained at Nisqually Plains; two or three families only stopped at the Cowlitz. This was the only attempt made by the Puget Sound Agricultural Company to make settlements in the territory north and west of the Columbia River. The scheme to establish agricultural colonies upon Puget Sound from the Red River proved a failure.

Tacoma Daile Ledger, Wednesday, February 18, 1885
Interesting Local Report
A sketch of the Emigration from Selkirk's Settlement to Puget Sound in 1841 ?Written for The Ledger by John Flett /

As I am the only surviving member of the married men of the party of emigrants, which under the direction of the Hudson Bay Company left Selkirk's settlement, in the valley of the Red river of the north, and came to Puget Sound in 1841, and as I have often been requested by descendents of other members of that party to leave some account of our journey; and as I also wish to correct some misapprehensions that have arisen concerning that emigration, I have attemped to give a history of that expedition.

An agreement was entered into by Duncan Fenelon, acting governor of the Hudson Bay Company, on the one side, and a party of emigrants on the other, to the following effect:

That the company should furnish, as captain, James Sinclair, Esq., should also furnish each head of family £ 10 sterling in advance (which all accepted but A. Buxton and John Flett) , also goods for the journey, and horses and provisions at the forts on the route as needed, and on the arrival at Puget Sound the company should furnish houses, barns, and fenced fields, with fifteen cows, one bull, fifty ewes, one ram, and oxen or horses, with farming impplements and seed. On the other part, it was agreed that the farmers should deliver to the com pany one half the crops yearly for five years, and at the end of five years, one half the increase of the flocks.

To this agreement twenty-three heads of families appended their names as follows:
Henry Buxton, HO Caldron, English;
A. Spence, John Spence, John Tate, James Berston, William Flett, James Flett, John Flett, John Flett, Alexander Berston, Orkney;
John Cunningham, Irish;
Joseph Cline, German;
Baptiste LaRoque, half-breed;
Charles McKay, Scotch;
Pierre St. Germain, M. Berney, Francois Jaques, Joseph Gereau, Joseph Yell, Antoine LaBlanc, Canadians;
William Baldro, John Johnson, John Hudson, all English, joined the first party soon after on the same terms. White Horse Plains, about fifteen miles west of Fort Garry, at the junction of the Red and Assinaboine rivers, was appointed as the rendezvous, and on the fourth of June, 1841, twenty-three families, containing eighty persons iall told, wers assembled with about fifty carts, seven oxen, two cows and sixty horses. On the morning of the fifth of June we broke camp, and turning our backs to the rising sun, plunged into the wilderness. Our route lay along the north bank of the Assinaboine. We crossed the Mouse and the QU'Apelle rivers, and then turning north past Fort Pelly we started for the Saskatchewan. On the vast plains we met our first buffalo, immense herds being seen feeding on the rich grasses of the valley. Here Mr. James Bird overtook us and became our guide. In this region we also met Dr. Tolmie and his party from the Columbia, and were passed by Sir George Simpson on his tour around the world. In this section of country the land seemed excellent, although timber was very scarse.

Column 3 and part of Page 2, column 4

Crossing the south branch we entered the timber, sometimes following an Indian trail and sometimes with no trail made. On the second day after we entered the mountains James Bird, our guide, bidding adieu to his friends and relatives, started on his reture. Sir George Simpson's assertion that he deserted us is a mistake. On the 6th of August we reached the summit, and found ourselves on a small plateau. Here we saw a huge snowdrift (Aug. 6th) whose melted waters formed three little rills, one running east through a deep canyon and finding its way through the Saskatchewan into Hudson's Bay; another running southeast into the Missouri, and at last into the gulf, while the third sent its waters through those "continuous woods where rolls the Oregon". On the ninth day after we entered the Rocky Mountains we emerged on the western side, at the Kootenai Plain, then through a belt of timber, and then over the Tobacco prairie.

To avoid some marshy land which lay in our course we climbed the projecting point of a high mountain, said to be one of the Bitter Root range. Then our route lay through a flat, marshy country until we came to a deep, sluggish river, called by the Indians Paddling river. Then our course lay to the southwest through a rich country with plenty of grass, until we came to Lake Pen d' Oreille. While travelling along a rocky cliff jutting towards the lake a horse ridden by one of our women slipped and horse and rider rolled into the lake, and were rescued with some difficulty. We crodsed the lake where it is about one mile in width. Here our first horse was stolen, while we were engaged in crossing. Here also, Joseph Cline, in company with an Indian, went to Fort Colville for provisions. He rejoined the party at Old Fort Spokane, bring some mouldy flour, some bran and some dried peas. Here we left two families, who on account of sickness were unable to proceed further.

We arrived at Fort Walla Walla on the 4th of October. On the next day the fort was burned. Our party assisted the men of the fort to save their goods. The Indians were so numerous that it was not deemed safe to camp there, but we travelled down the Columbia until midnight. In about four days we arrived at The Dalles, at the Methodist Mission, then in charge of D. Lee and Perkins. On the 12th we crossed the river; here one horse was drowned. When we reached the Cascades we found some boats on which the families, with some of the oldest men, sailed down the river, while the horses and cattle at Colville were driven to Vancouver, at which all arrived on the 13th.

Here we met Sir Geirge Simpson, P. Ogden, John McLaughlin, James Douglas, and here Sir George informed us that the company could not keep its agreement. As I remember, this was the substance of his speech: "Our agreement we cannot fulfill; we have neither horses, nor barns, nor fields for you, and you are at liberty to go where you please. You may go with the California trappers; we will give you a fitoutas we give others. If you go over the river to the American side we will help you none - very sickly. If you go to the Cowlitz we will help you some. To those who will go to Nesqually we will fulfill our agreement." Of course we were all surprised and hurt at this speech. After some discussion the party divided: Joseph Cline went to California, Pierre LaRoque, St. Germain, Berner, Jacques, Gereau, LaBlanc, and Antoine La Roque went to Cowlitz. The rest came to Nesqually, where we arrived November 8th, 1841, having travelled nearly 2,000 miles without the loss of a single person, while three children were born on the way.

We reached the south branch a few miles above where it reaches the Sasketchewan. The crossing was a difficult and dangerous work. The river was about a mile in width. A portion of the party passed safely to a small island in a small boat. The other portion, putting their carts and effects on a huge raft of dry logs, attempted to pole their raft across. The current was very swift, and they soon lost bottom and drifted down at a fearful rate, toward the rapids a short distance below. As they passed the island on which the first party had landed, they passed so near that a rope was thrown to them, and after a long struggle the raft was secured to the bank.

When a crossing was at last effected, we passed on through open country until we arrived, on the 28th of June, at Fort Charlton, on the banks of the great Saskatchewan. We secured some horses and replenished our stock of provisions and on the 30th resumed our journey. Dangers were now thickening around us. On the ground over which we were passing a great battle had been fought between the Crees and Blackfeet, the Crees being worsted. We kept men on guard night and day. War parties were on every side. We now began to believe what others had told us, that we should never get through. Still we forced our way on, and on the 10th of July crossed the Saskatchewan river to Fort Pitt. Here we found many wounded Cree, who had fled to the fort for protection. Here we rrested two days, and on the 12th, again broke camp, travelling on the north side of the river until we reached Fort Edmonton, on the 20th, where we recrossed the river. We had travelled far out of our direct route for safety, but now must face the unknown dangers. The region through which we had to pass was a fine hunting ground, buffalo being very plentiful and the different tribes - Blackfeet, Assinaboines, Piegans, Crees - were continually striving for it, and many bloody battles were fought.

Moving southward through this region, keeping careful watch for hostiles, we again reached the waters of the south branch on the 30th of July. Here the writer and a younger brother had a narrow escape. While out hunting we were surrounded by hostile Indians. We concealed outselves until dark, and in the twilight swam the cold, swift river. Having stripped off our outer clothing, we fastened it on our horses and plunged in. The water was cold, icy cold, the river was very swift, and about 200 yards wide. Twice we swam the river, and after wandering about for two days, we at last reached camp in safety. In all the dangers I have seen in a pioneer life of fifty years, the dangers of those two days were the worst. We overtook our party encamped at old Fort McLeod, an abandoned post of the H.B. company, now known as British Pass or Rocky Mountain. Here we were compelled to abandon our carts and pack our good on the backs of the oxen and horses. After long debate about what should be taken and what should be left behind, we at last had our train in readiness and started on our way. The oxen, however, were unused to this mode of travelling, and were frightened, and a stampede ensued. Then what a sight, oxen bellowing, kicking, running, horses neighing, rearing, plunging, children squalling, women crying. men shouting, swearing and laughing, while the air seemed full of blankets, kettles, packs of pots, pans and jerked buffalo. At last the cattle were again secured, all our goods that could be found were gathered up, and the remnant repacked and we again started.

Although we had arrived safely, our troubles were by no means ended. A part of the company, with Captain Sinclair, embarked on the steamer Beaver and examined the coast as far as Whidby Island. The Indians were found so numerous and warlike , that it was not deemed safe to settle in that region, so we returned and settled in what is now Pierce County. Our Indian guide was much astonished at the big canoe, pushed by fire, and at the big water, and asked Captain Sinclair to write an account of it for him , as he said he would not be believed if he told such things at home. This guide and Sinclair soon started but Sinclair was taken sick at Fort Colville , where he remained until spring. This Sinclair was killed by the Indians at the Cascades, Wash. Ter., 1855.

As the company furnished no houses, each man had to build his own cabin. As no plows could be obtained, John Flett and Charles went to Vancouver after iron to make some plows. They spent Christmas Day at the fort, and on their return turned the first furrows which were plowed this side of Cowlitz. Some seed wheat and some potatoes were furnished the farmers, but no teams nor cattle, although they were greatly needed. The writer tried hard to get a cow, either as per agreement or for money, but failed. Some who removed got some wild cows, but no sheep. There was much discontent, and loud murmurings were heard. Baldrow and Spence at once left the Sound in disgust. The Flett brothers left in June, 1842, for the Willamette, and more followed in the fall, and at the end of three years, all had left, getting nothing for their labor or their improvements.

Below I give a list of those of the party already dead, with date of death and place of burial, as nearly as I can ascertain:

Name	Date	Place of Death	Palce of Burial
Mrs. H. Buxton	1842		Nesqually, W.T.
Mrs. J. Yell	1842		"
Mrs. James Flett	1843		Washington Co
James Flett	1843		Walla Walla, W.T.
Mrs. La Blanc,	1844		Cowlitz, W.T.
M. Berney	1844		"
Mrs. St. Germain	1844		"
David Flett	1846		Yamhill, Or.
A. Spence	1851		California
John Spence	1851		"
William Flett	1851		"
Mrs. John Flett	1861		Washington Co.
Mrs. Jno. Cuneyham	-		"
Mrs. Wm. Flett	-		"
John Tate	-		"
A. Bersten	-		"
Joseph Yeal	-		"
Charles McKay	-		"
James Bersston	-		"
Mrs. A. Berston	-		Cascades, W.T.
O.H. Caldron and wf.	-		Pierce county

Joseph Cline and two La Roques returned to Red River in 1850

TACOMA DAILY LEDGER

February 18, 1885

Interesting Local Report, a Sketch of the Emigration from Selkirk's Settlement to Puget's Sound in 1841

(Written for The Ledger by John Flett.) Died Dec. 12, 1892

As I am the only surviving member of the married menof the party of emigrants, which under the direction of the Hudson Bay Company left Selkirk's Settlement in the valley of the Red River of the North and came to Puget Sound in 1841, and as I have pften been requested of the other members of that party to leave some account of our journey, and as I also wosh to correct some misapprehensions that have arisen concerning that emigration, I have attempted to give a history of that expedition.

An agreement was entered into by Duncan Fenelson /Finlayson/, acting governor of the Hudson Bay Company, on the one side, and a party of emigrants on the other, to the following effect: That the company should furnish, as captain, James Sinclair, Esq., should also furnish each head of a family £ 10 sterling in advance (which all accepted but A. Buxton and John Flett), also goods for the journey, and horses and provisions at the forts on the route as needed, and on the arrival at Puget Sound the company should furnish houses, barns and fences, fields, with fiftenn cows, one bull, fifty ewes, one ram, and oxen or horses, with farming implements and seed. On the other part it was agreed that the farmers should deliver to the company one-half the crops yearly, for five years, and at the end of the five years one-half the increase of the flock.

To this agreement twenty-three heads of families appended their names as follows:

Henry Buston	Alexander Berston, Orkney	
H.O. Caldron, English	John Cunningham, Irish	
A. Spence	Joseph Cline, Germany	
John Spence	Baptiste LaRoque, half-breed	
John Tate	Charley McKay, Scotch	
James Berston	Pierre La Roque	
William Flett	Pierre St. Germaine	Canadians
James Flett	Joseph Yell	
John Flett	Antoine Le Blanc	
David Flett	William Baldro	
	John Johnson	English all
	John Hudson	

All joined the first party, some after, on the same terms. White Horse Plain, about fifteen miles west of Fort Garry, at the junction of the R Red and the Assniboine rivers, was appointed as the rendezvous, and on the fourth of June, 1841. twenty-three families, containing 80 persons all told, were assembled, with about fifty carts, seven oxen, two cows and sixty horses. On the morning of the fifth of June we broke camp, and turning our backs to the rising sun, plunged into the wilderness.

Our route lay along the north bank of the Assinaboine. We crossed the Mouse and the Qu'Apelle rivers, and then turning north past Fort Pelly, we started for the Saskatchewan. On this vast plain we met our first buffalo, immense herds being seen feeding on the rich grasses of the valley. Here Mr. James Bird overtook us and became our guide. In this region we met also Dr, Tolmie and his party from the Columbia, and were passed by Sir George Simpson on his tour around the world. In this section of the country the land seemed excellent, although timber was very scarse.

We reached the south bank a few miles above where it joins the Saskatchewan. The crossing was a difficult and dangerous work. The river was almost a mile in width. A portion of the party passed safely to a small island, in a small boat. The other portion, putting their carts and effects on a huge raft of dry logs, attempted to pole their raft across. The current was very swift and they soon lost bottom and drifted down at a fearful rate towards the rapids a short distance below. As they passed by the island on which the first party had landed, they passed so near that a rope was thrown to them, and after a long struggle the raft was secured to the bank.

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Here we met Sir George Simpson, Peter Ogden, John McLoughlin, James Douglas, and here Sir George informed us that the Company could not keep its agreement. As I remember, this was the sunstance of his speech:

> "Our agreement we cannot fulfill; we have neither horses, nor barns, nor fields for you, and you are at liberty to go where you please. You may go with the California trappers; we will give you a fitout as we give them. If you go over to the American side we will help you none - very sickly. If you go to the Cowlitz we will help you some. To those who will go to Nesqually we will fulfill our agreement."

Of course we were all surprised and hurt at this speech. After some discussion the party divided. Joseph Cline went to California, Pierre LaRoque, St. Germaine, Berner, Jacques, O.H.Caldron, La Blanc and Antoine LaRoque went to Cowlitz. The rest came to Nesqually, where we arrived on November 'th, 1841, having travelled nearly 2000 miles without the loss of a single person, while three children were born on the way.

Although we had arrived safely, our troubles were by no means ended. A part of the company, with Captain Sinclair, embarked on the steamer Beaver and examined the coast as far as Whidby Island. The Indians were found so numerous and warlike that it was not deemed safe to settle in that region, so we returned and settled in what is now Pierce County. Our Indian guide was much astonished at the big canoe, pushed by fire, and by the big water, and asked Captain Sinclair to write an account of it for him, as he said he would not be believed if he told such things at home. The guide and Sinclair soon started to return, but Sinclair was taken sick at Fort Colville, where he remained until spring. This Sinclair was killed by the Indians at the Cascades, Washington Ter. in 1855.

As the Company furnished no houseseach man had to build his own cabin. As no plows could be obtained, John Flett and Charles McKay went to Vancouver after iron to make some plows. They spent Christmas day at the fort, and on their return turned the first furrows which were plowed this side of Cowlitz. Some seed wheat and some potatoes were furnished the farmers, but no teams or cattle, although they were greatly needed. The writer tried hard to get a cow, either as per agreement or for money, but failed. Some who removed got some wild cows, but no sheep.

There was much ill-content and loud murmering was heard. Baldrow and Spence at once left the Sound in disgust. The Flett brothers left in June, 1842, for the Willamette; more followed in the fall, and at the end of three years all had left, getting nothing for their labor or their improvements.

Below I give a list of those of the party already dead, with date of death and place of burial, as nearly as I can ascertain:

Name	Date	Place of Burial
Mrs. H. Burston	1842	Nesqually, W.T.
Mrs. J. Yell	1842	---------
Mrs, James Flett	1842	Washington Co.
James Flett	1843	Walla Walla, Wash. T.
Mrs. La Blanc	1844	Cowlitz, W.T.
M. Berney	1844	"
Mrs. St. Germaine	1844	"
David Flett	1846	Yamhill , Oregon
A. Spence	1851	California
John Spence	1851	"
Wm. Flett	1851	"
Mrs. John Flett	1851	Washington County
Mrs. John Cunningham	-	"
Mrs. Wm. Flett	-	"
John Tate	-	"
A. Burston	-	"
Joseph Yell	-	"
Charles McKay	-	"
James Berston	-	"
Mrs. A. Berston	-	Cascades, W.T.
O.H. Caldron	-	Pierce County, washington

Joseph Cline and two LaRoques returned to Red River in 1850.

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The Journals of William Fraser Tolmie, pp340-41

Friday, June 11 /1841/ Fort Garry - Red River Crossed another river requiring swimming. On Wednesday morning at White Mud Creek met a party of Red River Settlers, so far on their migration to the Columbia. Breakfasted with one of them, Charles McKay, a highland halfbreed, and was hospitably regaled with cold ham, Veal steaks, bread, butter & teawith milk fresh from the cow. Found this an agreeable change from Pemmican. The party consisted of 23 families, or 110 or 120 souls, they were well supplied with horses & two or three carts pr family, also some oxen & milch cows (3). I regretted their having so few cattle as their breed is superior to that of the Walamet, & for one of their cows , they might have had two or three of the California breed. They were of course inquisitive about the Columbia, & we satisfied them on most points -- their women and children looked cleanly & all spoke french or English. Judging from what I saw they will be quite an acquisition to the Walamet, for there they must inevitably go, altho' their agreement or contract with the Coy states the Cowlitz to be their destination. On the evening of Wednesday encamped with some people bound from R.R. for Fort Ellice, & entertained at our homely supper Mr. James Sinclair, a halfbreed , R.R. farmer, hastening to overtake the Columbia party of which he had the command.