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NOTES TAKEN FROM JOURNALS AT BEAVER HOUSE, GREAT TRINITY
LANE, LONDON

The following materials were available in Journal form:

1. Journals for Babine Country - Oct. 10, 1822 - Feb. 18, 1823, Wm. Brown.
2. Journals of Transactions and Occurrences - Feb. 19 - April 27, 1823, Wm. Brown.
3. Journal of Occurrences at Ft. Kilmaurs - April 18 - Oct. 8, 1825, Chas. Ross.
4. Report of the Establishment of Ft. Kilmaurs 1822/23 - Wm. Brown.
5. Report of the Babine Country and the Countries to the Westward, April 15, 1826, Wm. Brown.
6. Babine Journal, November 29, 1852.

Several letters were also available, but evidently the bulk of the journal material was lost in a fire which occurred at a later time at Ft. St. James.

1. Journals for Babine Country, Oct. 10, 1822 - Feb. 18, 1823 - William Brown

Wed., Oct. 23

Refers to Tachy as 1st village of Babines. ¶ One Indian traded moose skins for furs. "It will be necessary to check this sort of trade, as it can answer no good purpose and will be prejudicial to the Establishment . . ."

Reached village of Caupin at 11 a.m. Told this Indian¶ later (Thur. 24th) "I at the same time informed him that he was not in the future to come amongst the Babines to trade their furs - Or if he did I would make it a point to get hold of him, and take every skin he might then procure, without giving him anything in return -"

Sat, Oct. 28

"Ack-Koo shaw the chief arrives from below - He does not seem to have much - Which I believe partly arrives from there being little at his village, and partly from his being piqued, at us for building here, in preference to his place -"

Thur., Oct. 31

Flagstaff put up with "Kilmaurs" on it. Volley fired which frightened Indians. Waccan was with this party.

Mon., Nov. 11

Someone took a Handky from O'Doherty's tent. If it was not returned, "I would go to the village in search of it where I would not be satisfied with the Handkf., but strip the thief of every article he had, and if I did not find the guilty person I would sieze the first property I met with -" The hanky was returned.

Thur., Nov. 14

An Indian fishing in Bay which stretches toward Tatlay who has

a few furs, but won't trade because we sell our goods too high. Brown wanted to speak with this Indian.

Sat., November 16

Letter to Thomas Fleming - mentions that prices are higher than at Ft. St. James.

Wed., November 27

Letter to John Stuart - requests 6 men to form expedition to explore Babine Country west.

Fri., November 29

Stuart does not like the idea.

Sat., Nov. 30

Brown answers Stuart saying Babines have many European goods which they get from Russians or other coast traders. Brown considers McBean unfit to head any establishment because of his timidity with Indians and carelessness of property.

/Note: Since only three days separates these letters it would seem that Brown recorded them at these times in the journal./

Tues., Dec. 3

Letter to George Simpson. Babines not industrious but want to please. Again hopes for trip to west.

Sat., Dec. 21

Returned to Kilmaurs, everything in confusion. Chimneys falling apart.

Mon., Dec. 23

Indians have collected only 2 beaver pelts since Brown left. They say they had no nets.

Tues., Dec. 24

A son of Chilt-lo stole 15 balls from a shot pocket. Waccan gave him a kicking and took his blanket. Indians returned balls, asked for return of blanket. "Not a sufficient satisfaction to receive our own property after it has been stole...Therefore I would not give them the blanket unless they brought me something as an atonement for the theft." The brought 7 martins. Brown took 4 and traded 3.

Wed., Dec. 25

Had small dog for Xmas dinner.

1823

Wed., Jan. 1

Visited Ack Koo Shaw's village. Talked to man who wouldn't trade furs; said he would bring them in.

Indians from Simpson's River carried furs "to the Atnah village at the forks, and sold them to the Indians of the sea coast who mounted the river to there - this traffic will be very prejudicial to us if we do not get a stop put to it - As all the Indians here are talking of taking their furs there /this/ ensuing summer -"

Thurs., Jan. 2

Babines now harder to deal with. Chief's son "has a fine half breed dog of the slut Mr. Farris /Fannis?/ lost two years ago - According to an arrangement Mr. Stuart made with them last winter, the dog by rights belongs to us." The chief refuses to give the dog. Brown said he would take him, but if he was given quietly he would make him a present.

Fri., Jan. 3

Disagreement with chief. Gets dog. Gives chief blanket and knife.

/Notes: Whites at Kilmaurs evidently ate many dogs. Carriers do not eat dogs. Some coastal tribes think the flesh is poisonous. Simpson's River - Skeena, probably forks refers to junction with Bulkley. Hagwilgate, Moricetown. Atnah - Tsimsian speaking

Sun., Jan. 5

Confirms idea that the Tsimsian are trading with a vessel at the coast. Brown claims quality is poor. Tsimsian can make three trips to the sea in one summer.

Indian who attempted to steal fox fur was knocked down and kicked.

Tues., Jan. 28

Sawbuck and Zahlan /Tahhan?/ Kiss lad dee, Chim bin ya. These "big names" appeared.

Sat., Feb. 1

Zah han comes into room uninvited, Brown puts him out. Zah han throws door open. A few blows thrown. Zah han's father pulls knife. Waccan takes it away. Small fight ensues. Brown wields broomstick. A few other Indians receive random blows. The white men fear attack later on.

Evidently Zah han's family starts arguments often.

Friday, Feb. 7

One Indian tells how others cut out window and stole 7 steel traps, blankets.

Monday, Feb. 10

Long letter to Stuart; difficulties with tools at Kilmaurs. Evidently Brown has several differences with Stuart.

/Note: Stuart has long been discontent with his stay in New Caledonia/.

Friday, Feb. 14

An Indian tells Brown that much has been stolen from Ft. St. James. Comments inside the back cover of this Journal indicate that Brown and Stuart had several areas of disagreement.

2. Journals of Transactions and Occurrences in the Babine Country New Caledonia

William Brown - Commencing Feb. 19th and ending April 27, 1823

Friday, Feb. 21

Mr. Fleming said that he was leaving Kilmaurs against Brown's will.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

An Indian of Simpson's River refused to trade furs. Will take them to Atnahs.

Indian names which appear in journal: Kah din tah, Saw buck, Soo tee Aze, Kill kiss, Nan delk Kaa, Hoo /Noo/ cock, Nool son, Caupin.

Mar. 7, Friday.

Letter to John Stuart clearly indicates disagreement with Chief Factor Stuart.

Friday, Mar. 28

"The Indians of this place, like other Carriers of New Caledonia, have certain tracks /tracts/ of country, which they claim an exclusive right to - and will not allow any other person to hunt upon them - This though an excellent regulation for preserving the beaver, is very detrimental to the trade, as many Indians who would hunt have no lands to hunt upon -" Brown called heads of the families together to see if he could get them/ to allow people to hunt on each others land but give the meat to feasts.

Wed., Apr. 9

Letter to Stuart. Waccan to be replaced by Duncan Livingston. /Note: Livingston later killed by Babines and avenged by Waccan./

Indian names: Tapa or Tassa, Tannalouse, Kabdinto or Kaldinta

3. Journal of Occurrences at Fort Kilmaurs - Babine Country - Charles Ross
Commencing Monday Apr. 18 and ending Sat., Oct. 8, 1825

Indian names: Nandrelkah, Asseah, Tah-han, Squee, Utad-al /at/ nee, Chilclue, Matidtze, Teezonie, Toutass (German double s), Tee-leets, Casepin, Oss, Ul-tass ee yeau.

Wed., May 4

Indians went to Nass chick

Tues., May 24

Brown, McBean, and Yale arrive from McLeods Lake.

Thurs., June 9

Oss pretty saucy. Took furs to Casepin's village. Oss killed poor Atnah at Hotsett.

Friday, June 10

Oss threatens to kill Brown if he should go to Hotsett.

Sun., June 12

Detual (an Indian) killed by Siccaunies while in company employment. Fear reprisals by his relatives.

Mon., June 13

Squee, relative of Detual, said murderers too far away.
Indian names: Cabbah, Caspine, Matt, at cliss, Teilzie,
Clah-mah, Tassy, Neesteeppap, Hou-chite-ta-kie, Echelle, Stowkah,
Chimpinyai, Nosses

Sun., June 19

Leather is principal demand (moose). Hotsett Indians particularly troublesome. Complaints among Babine. Some say they will trade with the seacoast.

Wed., June 29

Logein (Indian from Hotsett) owed for an axe which he said was of poor quality. Started to leave, was seized, furs taken from him; amount deducted for axe, surplus returned.

Hotsett Indians turbulent this spring.

Wed., 20 July

Two HB men Gosselin and Guilbt traded with Indians for a dog which they roasted and ate in the woods. Reprimanded for trading with Indians.

4. Report of the Establishment of Fort Kilmaurs Babine Country 1822/23
- Wm. Brown.

Babines have two villages, Nahtellcuz and Thachy, 20 miles apart. Kilmaurs located at former. At Nahtellcuz 24 married men, 26 married women, 7 young men, 15 girls and widows and 12 boys. Caspine principal chief of two villages. Other chiefs Ool-lad (chief of Tachy), Saw-buck, Squee, Sotei-aze, Chim-bin-yah, Titza, and Chil-clue.

Village of Nasschick amounts to 34 married men, many strangers visit because of salmon. /Probably Ft. Babine/ Principal chief Ack-koo-shaw, next Hon /nou/ chete-ta-kee, Nan-delk-kaa, Cub-bah or Cab-bah.

Hotsett, largest and most populous of the Babine villages is situated on the banks of the Ouchil or Simpson's River 3 days march in winter 1 in summer west of this lake. 140-150 married men, 160-200 young men, etc. 20 chiefs.

List of chiefs:

Oss-Him, Smuggletuim, Quilt-No, Hook-ah-teit, Kie-less, Matt, Kittough-cune, Met-tie-ik, Une-fluck, Choled-soap or U-bel-cune, Kitlough, Ute-an-non, Cheigh, Koo-ock, Mee-im, Coughlet, Jack-Kay, Tzee-one, Use-tah, Coute-sa-uh.

p 4 - Simpson's River Indians sometimes traded with Indians at Stella and at Fraser's Lake.

p 5 - Little Chief at Stella planned to take furs to Atnahsin 1823.

p 8 - McDougal's River /probably Babine R./ rapids, high rocks, not navigable. /a later report said that it was navigable/

p 9 - Character of Babines

Kind and hospitable to strangers - only good features - dishonest, passionately addicted to gaming, licentious, lazy, idolent, immoral

in the extreme; and if not kept properly in check on our first outset amongst them, will prove the most turbulent and dangerous tribe in this quarter.

Two Atnah villages on banks of McDougall's River.

p 10 - Shoes made of salmon skin (Athahs). Did not hunt beaver. Babines fear them and consider them brave and daring. Settle private disputes by holding opponents hair with left hand and stabbing with knife. Both are usually badly injured. Use double ended knife. Have muskets, bayonets, and spears.

p 11 - Siccannies of the Prairies visited Atnahs. A numerous nation, inhabits area north of McDougall's River. Related linguistically to Sekani to the east. /later Brown learns that the Siccany are not so numerous/

Report of the Babine Country and Countries to the Westward, by Wm. Brown, Apr. 15, 1826

p 2 Salmon usually numerous but presently scarce last few years.

p 3 Tatchy - entrance of a small river on the South Shore, 60 miles from portage. Many salmon, but of poor quality. Oo-lad is chief. Addicted to gambling. Nah-tell-cuss on small island, one-quarter mile from Kilmaurs. Caspine has small following, not being principal chief; Chilclue, Cli-kiss, Ash-shaw Sawbuck, and Squee.

p 4 Nasschick located 20 miles to the SW /?NW/ of the Fort. Ack-kooshaw, principal chief of the lake, Cabbah, Houchetetah-kie. Cabbah belongs to same tribe as Caspine and is principal chief. Houchete-tah is inferior chief in Ack-koo-shaw's tribe. Extensive land in vicinity of lake. Tinnee weel, Teel sie, Nandelk Kaa, Atcliss, Attowan, Oissicaninah tah, Telghee, Yai ben elk tak, Sogein, all big names.

p 6-9 describes chiefs at Simpson's River.

p 12 In Spring of 1825 Brown went from Babine to village of Chil do call. Found Babine R. to be navigable. Visited Atnahs. Atnahs in Babine River have two villages 5 miles apart. Neep Sim and Chil do call. Other villages downstream. Greeted by 300 warriors.

p 16 Siccannies not so large after all. Excluded from other bands. Reside between Babine River and Bear Lake. Brown finds Atnahs more industrious and skillful than Carriers. They burn their dead. Women pierce lips, wear labret. Hospitable.

p 19-22. Brown feels that the Company can't compete with the Sea Coast trade unless the trade is extended inland. Wishes to establish a fort at the forks. Evidently at the union of the Skeena and Bulkley.

5. Report of the Babine Country and Countries to the Westward, Apr. 15, 1826, Wm. Brown

Evidently a copy of the former report but with some changes.

p 9 Indians want leather for furs, HBC very short of leather. Indians displeased, will not trade. Moose leather given away at deaths. Babines demand high quality skins, will not accept poorer quality which other carriers use for leggings etc. Need 3-400 skins yearly. Trading for fish fills wants of Indians. They don't have to hunt beaver.

6. Babine Journal, Nov. 29, 1852

Tues., Dec. 1

Indians take furs to Rocky de Boule and return with much property.

Mon., Dec. 14

Feast interferes with collection of furs. Feast held at Cooslam's.

Sun., Dec. 20

Confounded feast over. Now Indians must attend to funeral of dead woman.