



June, 2019

Mountain Man Monthly

**The Authorized Publication of the
Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders Inc.**

The Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc. was chartered in 1969 by a group of men and women interested in their heritage and dedicated to preserving and promoting the sport of muzzle loading and buckskinning. CSML is a family oriented club that holds a broad range of functions such as camp outs, potluck dinners, and black powder shoots. CSML is affiliated with the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association and the National Rifle Association.

Views and opinions contained within articles submitted to the Mountain Man Monthly are not necessarily those of the editor or CSML. The editor reserves the right not to publish any article submitted but encourages articles on any subject regarding shooting sports and subjects related to the fur trade era.

Regular Monthly Meeting

TUESDAY, July 2, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Club Paper Shoot - July 7

Grainger Primitive Camp Out

July 20-21

Chili Cookoff & Potluck

High Country Hide-Away

Shotgun Event: July 10-14

E-mail notice Information

President

Joy Hicks

Vice President

Robert McCune

Treasurer

Gwen Blanchard

Secretary

Membership Chairman

Ted Beaupre

Range Officer

Ted Beaupre

Assistant Range Officer

Jock Harmon

Primitive Exec.

Doug "Moose Milk" Davis

Assistant Primitive Exec.

Tony "Tenderfeets" Hecker

Cannon Master

Richard "Singe" Stites

Mountain Man Monthly

Editor

Doreen Webb

UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & Statewide

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	July 2	regular monthly meeting
4 th of July Parade	Monument, CO	July 4; approx. 0930	Details at July club meeting
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	July 7	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
High Country Hideaway Muzzle Loading Shotgun Event	Blue Valley Sportsmen's Club Kremmling, CO	July 10-14	includes NMLRA Territorial matches; 4-1/2 days of shotgun shooting
Rocky Mountain National Rendezvous	between Gunnison and Saguache, CO aprox. 9300 ft.elev.	July 13-20	www.rmnr.org; or visit rocky mountain national rendezvous on facebook
Primitive Grainger Camp Out	Grainger Ranch near Victor	July 20-21	potluck & chili cook-off Saturday night; lots to do
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	August 4	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	August 6; 7:00 pm	regular club meeting & stuff
Paper Grainger Camp Out	Grainger Ranch near Victor	August 17-18	potluck Saturday night; lots of shooting; elections
CSMLA State Shoot	Ft. Lupton	August 30-Sept. 2	Camp fee \$20; csmla.net
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	Sept. 3	club business and such
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	Sept. 15	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	Oct. 6	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	Oct. 8	club business and who knows???
Annual Bird & Buffalo Shoot	Ft. Melchert Penrose, CO	Oct. 19-20	long-range shooting; potluck Saturday night; auction; & stuff
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	TIME ENDS ON	NOVEMBER 3	SET CLOCK BACK 1 HOUR!!
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	November 3	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	November 5	club business and such
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	November 17	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	December 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	December 3	annual ornament exchange; finger foods and fun!

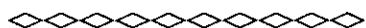
For CSML scheduled shoots; CALL SHOOT HOT LINE (719) 442-0150 after 9:00 a.m. on shoot day to be sure shoot is on!!!
Schedule is subject to change at any time and is based on information available at time of publication. On-line check csmlinc.org

PAST THINGS

May's meeting was a sort of a sad one, but we were able to discuss what had occurred. The mud and water in the Florence Mountain Park was too much this year and on Thursday, May 23, we made the decision to cancel the 2019 shoot. We felt that the CSML could not jeopardize their relationship with the City of Florence nor could we clean up the possible mess if we allowed folks to try and enter the grounds as muddy as they were. We've done that in the past and are certain that we couldn't do it again. Besides, we didn't want everyone's campers and vehicles mired in mud and filthy when they left. Mother Nature just won another one.

We have lots of new club sweatshirts and T-shirts which were printed for the event. If you need a new color or just want another shirt, please see Gwen and she can hook you up with one. Lots of sizes available.

We cancelled the June primitive shoot as it was on Father's Day. Plenty of shooting coming up with the Territorial's and all the club shoots.



Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders Regular Monthly Meeting June 4, 2019

There were 18 people present when President Joy Hicks called the meeting to order and we all pledged allegiance to our flag.

Since we don't publish the newsletter in May, there were no printed minutes to discuss. Doreen did read the minutes from the May meeting. Motion was then made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as read.

Treasurer Gwen noted that the bill for the copier contract was received and it was a bit more than expected. This was due to going over the anticipated number of copies. Since the billing is based on a set number of copies and the overage was

only \$67, it was determined that we need to find out what the next level of copies would be and determine if it is cheaper to move to a higher number of copies or just pay the overage charges when they appear. Gwen will get the information and let us know. Gwen then read a listing of the treasury from May 6 through June 1. Checks were written for postage stamps, CO2 cartridges, Paint, ink, tags for the trailer, targets, and the gun show table. There also was a charge for printing of new T-shirts and sweatshirts for the club. We have not heard from the port-a-potty rental but since the event was cancelled we are not expecting any charges from them. At this time we have an ending balance of \$4449.98 in the bank. There being no questions raised, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed for acceptance of this report.

Membership Chairman Ted reported that we are still at 63 paid members. He noted that there are 15 non-renewals, some of which would have paid at the Memorial Day event. We will be sending those folks a postcard to remind them of their dues being due.

Memorial Day: As everyone knows we had to make the hard decision to cancel the 2019 shoot due to the mud and wet grounds. Therefore, we discussed the many issues with the cancelling. The good thing is that none of the printed materials had been done yet and the medals that were paid for can be reused for the next one. We are able to re-use or recoup most all of the expenses for 2019.

The shotgun guns, as soon as they were notified of the cancellation, passed the word and all the shot-gunners went to Cactus Flats and shot anyway. We understand that they had a great time and shot lots of the birds. We are also told that the owner of Cactus Flats, Don, had offered his place for our next Memorial Day event.

New Business: Gwen brought tubs full of CSML t-shirts and sweatshirts that had been printed up for sale. There are some great new colors available. It is also noted that Gwen has no place to store these shirts so we are looking for someone to take charge of the shirts and make them available for purchase. If you can help Gwen out, please let us know. If you need a new shirt or just want another color, please see Gwen. Lots of sizes available.

Doug has asked for a special announcement to

be published in the *Mountain Man Monthly*, regarding those folks who subscribe to gmail.com as their e-mail provider. This will be done with the June issue.

The primitive shoot for June is on Father's Day. Discussion was held and it is determined that the shoot on this day, June 16, is now cancelled.

We will be participating in the 4th of July parade in Monument on Thursday, July 4th. Details for this event will be available at the July meeting on July 2nd. We really need a good crowd to show for this parade.

July 7 will be a paper shoot at Ft. Melchert. Ted advises that you need to be ready as he is going to do something different at this shoot. He wants to hear folks cry.....

The July Primitive Grainger camp out will be held on July 20-21. The annual chili cook off and potluck supper will be held.

Motion made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting. So done.

Respectfully submitted,
Temporary Scribe Doreen Webb

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IMPORTANT E-MAIL NOTE

Any members who subscribe to gmail.com as your e-mail provider and are not receiving messages containing information for CSML events, the messages have been deemed by gmail.com as spam. Doug has checked for a work around but it does not work. It is suggested that you change your e-mail provider to another one if you want to receive the e-mail messages from CSML. There are no reported problems with any of the other free e-mail providers.

We thank you for your patience and understanding on the electronic notifications. Those electronic notifications allow us to faster notify our members of events, cancellations, and other important things happening in the club.

M.U.L.E.Y. EVENT

By: Ted "Dances with Deer" Beaupre

Well, another MULEY event is behind us. The crew arrived and set up the range, eagerly awaiting the throngs of young ones wanting to try their luck at shooting a black powder rifle. The weather was nice and we had a total of sixty-one participants. Ken brought out a fine display of pistols for all to look at. It is sure nice to see the big smiles when they hear that gong clang and they realize that they hit the target.

Thanks to Tom, John, Tony, Jack, Don, and Ken. Without your help this would not be possible.

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4th of JULY PARADE

By: Don Stoner

Once again we will try to be marching in the 4 July Parade in Monument, Colorado. We really are in need of a good turnout this year. We get the chance to show ourselves to the general public by allowing the kids to pull the trigger on blank loads from our rifles. And, the parade officials WANT us there so much that we don't have to pay the entrance fee.

As most know, we use parade loads in PERCUSSION rifles only. Bring your caps and parade loads (40-50) and maybe some tools. NO LEAD BALLS or BULLETS, ETC. Eye and ear protection, water, and walling shoes. Please wear something that looks like Mountain Man attire.

Don't use Baptist Road exit from the Interstate as Old Denver Highway will be closed to traffic other than parade line ups. Parking is limited in town. Parade officials recommend using the parking lot at the intersection of Old Denver Highway and Baptist Road and taking the shuttle into town. There is also parking at the two high schools but GUNS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

Come early and have breakfast at St. Peter's Catholic Church for a small donation. They are located right at the parade start location and their parking lot is used for the kids parade line up.

We will open the parade and start immediately after the kids parade that starts at 9:30 a.m. sharp.

The starting point is the intersection of Jefferson and Lincoln and we have to be lined up not later than 9:30 a.m. Sooner is better.

Parade packet has not been received at this writing so watch your e-mail for any changes. If you would please RSVP to Don Stoner at (719) 640-0935 if you have even the slightest possibility of attending, I would greatly appreciate it.

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CONDOLENCES

Word has been received that **Barb Webster** passed away on June 9. Barb is the wife of Larry Webster, a renowned gun builder and crafter. Both Barb and Larry were avid shooters and shot in top categories for a long time. Barb was Women's Top Shooter and participated in the Master's Tournament for many years.

Barb was a wonderful woman with an infectious laugh. She could be seen concentrating on her shots on the line and the next minute smiling from ear-to-ear and laughing at the latest joke. Barb was an excellent sportswoman and never failed to support the muzzle loading community wherever they went.

The Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association honored Larry and Barb with a Lifetime Achievement Award couple of years ago. Barb always shot the guns that Larry built for her and was always willing to share tips and tricks with new shooters. She helped a lot of us become much better shooters than we ever thought we could.

I will personally miss Barb very much and miss the fun we had at the annual Lyons shoot on the school ball field. I will also miss her at the Club Challenge matches we used to do in the Denver area.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Larry on this tremendous loss..

HIGH COUNTRY HIDEAWAY MUZZLE LOADING SHOTGUN SHOOT

The annual High Country Hideaway muzzle loading shotgun shoot is scheduled for July 10-14 at the Blue Valley Sportsman Club near Kremmling, Colorado. Tom Hart is a sponsor of this event. There will be NMLRA Territorial matches at this year's event as well.

Registration is \$25 for adults with an additional \$8.00 if you want to shoot the Territorials. There will be trap, skeet, and five stand events, with lots of re-entry targets if you want to keep on shooting.

Motels and RV/tent camping is available in Kremmling which is 10 miles north of the range. There will be a complimentary dinner Saturday evening for all shooters and their families. Dinners will be available for purchase most evenings. Great lunches will also be sold every day at the range for \$6.00.

Even if you don't want to shoot, make plans to go by and watch these intrepid shotgun shooters break the birds and have fun doing it.

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL RENDEZVOUS July 13-20

This event will be held at the Quartercircle-Circle Ranch in the Cochetopa Basin between Gunnison and Saguache, Colorado. Plans include hawk, knife, archery, and lots of shooting. There are two spring-fed ponds with catch and release fishing. Kids games, horse camp, and long and short term camps are available.

Lots of information is available at www.rmnr.org or at Rocky Mountain National Rendezvous on Facebook. Maps show that the location is just outside Gunnison on Colorado Highway 114 toward Saguache. You will be turning

onto County Road 17GG. There should be signs to direct you to the site.

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PRIMITIVE GRAINGER CAMPOUT July 20-21

Time is fast approaching for the annual Grainger Primitive Camp Out. This is where we as a club go up near Victor to the Grainger's land and camp out for the weekend. No stress, no fuss. We do lots of shooting and eating and just having a good time.

Camping is available at noon on Friday. Be sure to leave the gates as you find them. That means if they are open when you arrive, then they can stay open. If they are closed, then you need to close them when you pass through.

There will be the usual potluck and chili cook off Saturday night at around 6-ish. Prizes are awarded for the hottest, mildest, and best chili made. Be sure to bring food to share with the others and your own eating plates and utensils. This is always a good time.

If you have someone you want to gift with a primitive name, be sure to be there after the potluck to do so. Like the traditional Native Americans, some of us have done something that earns us our name. We do have a list of the primitive names already given to our members.

We are sure that Doug can use help in setting up the range for the primitive shooting, so if you can, be sure to volunteer to help him. There will be time to help tear down as well.

While it has not yet been confirmed, there is usually a potluck breakfast on Sunday morning at 8-ish. Bring your favorite breakfast food and join in the fun. Some usually makes pancakes and eggs and such. This is a great way to start the Sunday morning and gradually ease into the day and the last but not least, pack up to go home.

We encourage all to come and camp and even if you can't camp, come and share in the shooting and fun and food.

JUNE PAPER PISTOL MATCH

by: Ken West

Only three people showed up for the paper shoot on June 2 and they decided to shoot gongs. The scores were:

Jim Murray	11 gongs
Al Bartok	10 gongs
Bruce	8 gongs

Jim assumed that I know who "Bruce" is --- he overestimates my memory! I was setting up the BB-gun range for the Cub Scouts in Nashville at the time of the match. The Cub Scouts in Nashville shot a lot of BBs --- many of them hitting the target. 100 of them showed up for the week-long day camp; twice last year's count. They seemed better behaved than last year! Listened more carefully to safety instructions. The barbeque in Nashville is still good!

Gossip: The results of the Western Pistol match in Phoenix the first week in March have finally been published. Jim Murray took top place in the grand aggregate in the "Temporary Masters" class -- the classification for people shooting in a national match the first time. Jay Rathman took third place in the senior aggregate in the Marksman class and I took second place in the International match -- also Marksman class. You can find the results at <http://azmuzzleloading.com>.

Friendship was cold and rainy the second week in June -- lost two days due to

rain. I shot better than I did last fall, but so did the competition. Trump's "full employment" is somewhat of a hardship. I never make motel reservations for the Friendship shoot because the motel that I prefer is usually less than one-third full. This year there was "no-room-at-the-inn"; everyone is making money and enjoying spending it.

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MARIE DORION

(1786 - 1850)

Marie Dorion, a Native American of the Iowa tribe, was the only female member of the Astor Expedition (1811-1812) from Missouri to Oregon Country. Her journey followed that of Sacagawea by six years, but Dorion's 3,500 mile trek was both longer and much more difficult. Her epic story shows the strength and perseverance needed to survive in the unforgiving wilderness of the Pacific Northwest.

Marie Dorion's story became well known in her lifetime through the published recollections of Fort Astoria pioneers and through Washington Irving's book *Astoria (1835)*. Her son Paul escorted famous writer Francis Parkman on the Oregon Trail while Jean Baptiste went on to a career with the British Canadian fur trading Hudson Bay Company. Several sites along the Walla Walla River commemorate Marie Dorion as the Madonna of the old Oregon Trail. Author Jane Kirkpatrick wrote the *Tender Ties* trilogy of historical novels based on Dorion's life.

Of the original 60 members of the Astor Expedition, 45 made it to Fort Astoria, but they failed to blaze a dependable trail to Oregon. However, they did make great discoveries in Wyoming, including the South Pass through the Rocky Mountains through which hundreds of thousands of settlers would later follow along the Oregon, California, and Mormon Trails. A large portion of Hunt's route became part of the Oregon Trail.

Marie Dorion was the second woman to travel

across continental American in the early days of western exploration. Accompanying Wilson Price Hunt on his overland expedition to Astoria, Oregon she learned valuable lessons about journeying through a wild land,. Her experiences enabled her and her two sons to survive an incredible ordeal that threatened to kill all of them a few years later.

Born on the Arkansas River, she was an Iowa Indian and sometimes used the last name of Aioe, Ayauway, Iowa, L' Ayvoise, or L' Aguivoise. Little is known of her early life, and her birth date is set only as toward the end of the eighteenth century.

Marie's husband, Pierre Dorion, was the half-blood son of Pierre Dorion, Sr., also known as "Old" Dorion, a French trapper and trade who accompanied Lewis and Clark on a portion of their expedition. Pierre, Jr., was in St. Louis in the winter of 1811 as Wilson Price Hunt completed arrangements for the Pacific Fur company's expedition to Astoria. This new venture was a division of John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company. The Hunt party had a 3,500 mile journey and Marie, the only woman on the trip, was apparently in her early twenties at the time.

Pierre had been an interpreter among Indian tribes up and down the Missouri and had served with Manuel Lisa only the year before. He accepted Hunt's offer of employment on what seems to have been his own terms. He received an extravagant salary of \$30 per year, with \$200 paid in advance. Pierre also stipulated that his family be allowed to travel with him. The Hunt expedition, Dorions in tow, left St. Louis on March 12, 1811.

The party left the Missouri River and headed west from Manuel Lisa's post among the Mandan Indians. The trip was long and perilous, and the expedition did not arrive in Astoria until February 15, 1812.

Along the way, Marie proved to be one of the hardiest members of the group. She walked much of the way, often carrying the children on her back. On December 10, she gave birth to another child near the present site of North Powder, Oregon; it was the first child with white blood to be born on the trip. They then traveled twenty miles on horseback across the Telocaset Divide to catch up with the rest of the party in Grande Ronde Valley. Sadly, the infant died nine days later on January 8, probably somewhere on

Meacham Creek near Duncan, Oregon. The sex of the child was never recorded.

It seems that all of the men on the expedition held Marie in high regard. At one point, when the entire party faced starvation, Hunt requested permission to kill for food, the horse that Pierre had purchased for his pregnant wife. When it came to a vote, the famished men voted unanimously to starve rather than rob Marie and her children of their mount.

This trip was but a precursor to Marie's incredible ordeal. It began on July 5, 1813, when John Reed, a Pacific Fur Company clerk took an expedition out of Astoria and into the Snake River country on a trapping and horse gathering mission. Accompanying Reed were Giles LeClerc, Francois Landry, Jean Baptist Turcot, Andre LeChapelle, Pierre Dulaunay, Pierre Dorion - - - and Dorion's family.

Reed's party trekked up the Columbia River to the Umatilla River where they obtained sixteen horses from local Indians. He then started along Hunt's old route toward the Blue Mountains, following what would become the Oregon Trail. They reached the Snake River, near present day Huntington, Oregon in mid-August.

After reaching the Snake, Reed built a post at the mouth of the Malheur River, probably near the present site of Vale, Oregon. Bannock Indians were very hostile toward Reed, so he abandoned the post, crossed the Snake, and built new winter quarters at the mouth of what is now the Boise River in present day Idaho. Fur trappers would call this waterway "Reed's River" for many years in memory of the events about to occur there.

The exact spot of Reed's cabin is not known with certainty. Charts of David Thompson, a Canadian surveyor in early 1802, show the post on a tongue of land at the south side of the Boise River's mouth. Donald McKenzie subsequently started a post at the same place in 1819 and Thomas McKay utilized Reed's old horse corral for his post called Snake Fort built in 1835.

After Reed completed his cabin, his men set about trapping beaver; however, things began to turn bad for Giles LeClerc and he was continually in a foul mood. He left in a fit and was never heard from again. Francois Landry was thrown from his horse and died of subsequent injuries. Finally, Jean Baptist Turcot

died of the "King's Evil", a form of tuberculosis also known as scrofula, said to be curable only by the touch of a king's hand.

Reed's party was not diminished for long, as three Kentucky hunters who had been waiting for Reed soon joined him. They were John Hoback, Jacob Rezner, and Edward Robinson, who had originally traveled with Andrew Henry in 1810 as employees of the Missouri Fur Company. After hiring on with Hunt as guides through the Rockies, the three had separated from the main group to trap beaver. They had been hunting in the Snake River area, aware that Reed was to bring his party to that vicinity.

In January, Rezner, LeClerc, and the Dorions separated from Reed and the rest of the party. They traveled about five days to an area they found to be well stocked with beaver. They built a crude hut and dispersed into the surrounding wetlands to hunt. The men were quite successful and while they checked their traps each day, Marie remained at the meager dwelling, dressing skins and preparing their evening meal.

Marie was stretching beaver hides one evening, around January 10, 1814, when she heard footsteps approaching. Giles LeClerc, deathly pale and bleeding severely, staggered into the hut. He summoned enough strength to tell her that Indians had attacked the men; Rezner and Dorion died instantly. LeClerc got away, but life was draining rapidly from him as he collapsed at Marie's feet, exhausted.

With the courage and confidence of an experienced frontier woman, Marie knew that escape was her only chance for life. With great difficulty she caught two of their horses. On one she packed some clothes and a small quantity of beaver meat and dried salmon. She managed to hoist LeClerc into the saddle behind those few supplies. Marie mounted the other horse, her two children in front of her. Then they made for the safety of Reed's cabin.

Marie lost her way during the first night and her party spent most of the second day under cover from a winter storm. Marie pushed on, though, traveling mainly in the protection of darkness.

On the third day of the trek, Marie saw a number of Indians galloping eastward on horseback. She immediately dismounted and concealed her family and LeClerc in a large thicket. They managed to

escape detection and proceeded on with caution. They slept at night with no fire or water. The desperate mother cradled her young children in her arms, trying to keep them warm. LeClerc died during the bitter cold night and Marie buried his body under brushwood and snow.

At dawn the family resumed their journey. Late in the evening of the fourth day, they reached Reed's headquarters. To her horror, Marie found only a smoking ruin where the house had been. The area was deserted. Signs of a furious battle were everywhere and blood stained the ground.

Determined to discover if any of the men might still be alive, Marie hid the children and horses in a cluster of trees. Arming herself with a tomahawk and a large knife, she waited for the cover of darkness, then crept toward the scene of the carnage. Quietly she called out the men's names but there was no reply.

The sound of a snapping twig caught Marie's ear. In the glow of the still smoldering timbers she saw a band of prairie wolves skulking about. She yelled and the sound of her voice sent them scurrying into the shadows. Fearful that the wolves might find her secluded sons, she hurried back to them. She arrived just in time to save her boys from the wolves sneaking toward them.

The next morning Marie forded the Snake and rode toward the Blue Mountains, a range of the Rockies rising not far from the upper reaches of the Wallah-Wallah River. For days she continued west, hurrying onward, following essentially the same trail back to Astoria which she had used two years prior on the Hunt expedition. She was exhausted and hungry, having denied herself food to feed her children.

Nine days later Marie and her sons reached the base of the Blue Mountains, near present day Hilgard, Oregon where she found the snow too deep to continue. She chose a wild, lonely ravine for her winter refuge, and in a rocky recess close to a mountain springs, she built a small primitive shelter using sticks and three deer skins she had taken from the Reed cabin. She spread the deer skins over a rough framework of cedar branches and pine bark. The wigwam would shelter her family well in the inclement winter weather ahead.

Having no other food, Marie killed their two horses. She added their skins to the hut's covering

and smoked the meat. In cheerless winter isolation, Pierre Dorion's widow and her two fatherless sons endured fifty-three days of a miserable, desolate cold existence.

By the last of March, 1814, Marie's provisions were about gone. Still, they had seen nothing of the Indians who had killed the men of Reed's expedition. For that matter, Marie had seen no sign of human life except her children. Resigned to her fate, she wrapped the remaining dried meat in the buffalo robe and slung it across her back. She swung her youngest child onto her shoulders, took her eldest by the hand, and continued west on foot.

Marie became snowblind on the second day and could not take a step for three days. She eventually succeeded in crossing the mountains and soon arrived on the shores of the Wallah-Wallah River. She continued along the banks for fifteen days until she finally reached the plains of the Columbia River, all the while hoping to find some friendly Indians to live among until boats from Fort Okanagan ascended the river late in the Spring.

Finally Marie saw smoke in the distance. Leaving her children wrapped snugly in the buffalo robe and hidden along Meacham Creek, she ventured ahead to check out the source of the smoke. Around noon on the next day, scarcely able to crawl, she dragged herself into a camp of hospitable Wallah-Wallah Indians. They immediately went back for her children.

On April 4, 1814, several partisans of the Pacific Fur Company set out east from Astoria to cross the Rockies. The party, including Donald McKenzie, David Stuart, John Clarke, and Gabriel Franchere, paddled their two canoes idly up the Columbia. On April 17 they approached the mouth of the Wallah-Wallah. At about 8:00 a.m. three canoes filled with Indians put out from shore and headed directly for them. From their straining efforts with the paddles, it was obvious to the Astorians that the Indians meant to overtake them.

The white men's fears were allayed when they heard what sounded like a child's voice imploring them to stop. They pulled onto shore and the three Indian canoes quickly joined them. To the white's surprise, they recognized Marie Dorion and her two sons. When they heard her tale, they were awed and

horrified.

The Dorion's had been with the Wallah-Wallah tribe about two weeks when the Pacific Fur Company canoes came by. The Astorians gave the locals some presents to repay them for their kindness, then took Marie and her sons back up to Fort Okanagan where they arrived on April 23.

Marie could offer the whites no solid reason for the Indians murderous attack on Reed's party. Some Astorians supposed it to be an act of Blackfeet butchery. Others thought it was a wanton and unprovoked massacre, and cited it as another demonstration of Indian barbarity. Still other ascribed the affair to the Nez-Perces in revenge for the hanging of one of their tribesmen by John Clarke. Clarke, a newly appointed partner of the Pacific Fur Company, had punished the Indian for stealing a silver cup the spring before. The Bannocks, having already shown hostility toward the Reed party, were also potential culprits.

The cabin John Reed built had no defenses. Since the hunters were usually out with their trap lines or hunting game, Marie supposed there was not more than one or two of the men with Reed at the time of the attack. The others were likely cut off in the same manner as her husband. From the quantity of blood around the cabin, the Astorians surmised that the whites must have also killed several Indians.

There is some confusion as to the names of Marie's sons at the time of the massacre. It is relatively certain that Baptiste Dorion was one of the two. Several historians name the second child as Paul Dorion, although other sources say Paul's mother was "Holy Rainbow", a Yankton Indian. Historian J. Neilson Barry reports the death of one of the Dorion boys shortly after the Hunt expedition reached Astoria, and the birth of a third son while Pierre and Marie were with Reed on the Boise River. He also said the eldest child who survived the ordeal was four years old; the other was four months old.

When the Astoria enterprise folded, most of its members returned east or attached themselves to the North West Company, which purchased the Pacific Fur Company. Only Marie Dorion and her children continued to live on the frontier. She later married Louis Joseph Vernier, of the North West Company. They had one child, Marguerite, born about 1819.

Vernier, like Marie's first husband, died at the hands of Indians. She then married Jean Baptiste Toupin, an interpreter at Fort Wallah-Wallah. They had two children, Francois, born in 1825, and Marianne, born in 1827.

One of Marie's sons, Baptiste Dorion, followed in his father's footsteps, serving as a guide to the naturalist J. K. Townsend on a trip along the Columbia River in 1834. He also served as a lieutenant with the Oregon Rifles in the Cayuse Wars of 1847.

Marie was still in Oregon in 1838 when Methodist missionary Jason Lee reported seeing her. The Toupin family moved to the Willamette Valley and made land claims in 1841 about three miles east of Salem, Oregon.

Land office records indicate that Marie died on September 3, 1850. However, records in the St. Louis Oregon Catholic church show her death on September 5, with burial the next day. Her exact age at death is unknown.



Petra

It is with a very heavy heart that we need to let you know that our dear friend Petra LaChance died Friday, June 21. She and Fred were fishing at Blue Mesa. Fred was cleaning up. Petra decided to fish a little longer, there was a Kayak accident and we lost our friend. We are asking that you give the family some time. We will let you know when we know more. Please keep the family in your prayers. Petra will be deeply missed by so many.

Petra's Memorial will be Saturday, June 29, at Praise Community Church, 215 N. Pikes Peak Ave. Florence, CO at 11:00am with a pot luck to follow.

If you have pictures of Petra, Steven is wanting to make a Memory Video to show at the reception. Please email pictures to Steven at:

Steve38email@yahoo.com as soon as possible.