



2018 SPIRIT HOUSE Project

The 2018 Spirit House Project

Crew (lt to rt)

Chehala Leonard: cook (*Descendant of Jacques Thappe*)

Alley Lee Lamb: cooks-helper

Payton Hallock: 15-year-old, wrangler (*Descendant of Madeleine Joachim and Pierre Delorme; and a relative of Isabella Delorme*)

Emma Matthews: 16-year-old, wrangler-helper

Susan Feddema-Leonard: cinematographer / photographer

Bazil Leonard: Outfitter

Curtis Hallock: Outfitter (*Descendant of Madeleine Joachim and Pierre Delorme; and a relative of Isabella Delorme*)

Jaely Moberly: 8-year-old cook-helper - (*Relative of all grave sites visited*)

Tom Wanyandie: 87-year-old, guide (*Descendant of Jacques Thappe*)

Gabe McDonald 14-year-old: wrangler-helper (*Descendant of Washy Joe Agnes' 16 year-old daughter*)

Youth were taught the way of their Ancestors about the ways of the trail. They were given hands on experiences in saddling and packing horses; using the age old "Diamond Hitch," which is becoming a lost art.



We trucked the horses from Grande Cache to the Berland River Camp Ground on July 2, 2018. There was a torrential rain warning for our area, and the storm was in its finest hour as we drove. It was raining cats and dogs, and we had the windshield wipers going to the maximum. We ferried four loads of horses and gear to the staging.

The Berland River was muddy and roaring, and 87-year-old Tom Wanyandie questioned

the wisdom in our decision to pack up and move on to Adam's Creek. It looked like a monumental task ahead of us, as it was noon when we started saddling the horses. Everyone pitched in and we left the staging area in a light rain at 3:30 pm. The horses were chomping at the bit literally and we rode along trail that needed to be cleared. We worked our way around the deadfall, and finally reached the Willmore Wilderness Park boundary, and the trail was in much better condition.

It was a long ride down an old CAT trail. We finally reached long open meadows. The Berland had immense meadows however willows were strangulating the grasslands. The many river crossings were something else. The fast current pushed the horses downstream. Rosie, the trail dog was having a hard time navigating the waters. She was forced to jump in the river, getting swept rapidly downstream. Rosie somehow made it back to us.



We rode for three hours arriving into camp at 6:30 pm. Everyone was tired, having had little sleep. Eighty-seven-year-old Tom and Outfitter Bazil Leonard only had four hours of sleep after trucking the horses the previous day. We were all feeling exhausted, but managed to unpack, unsaddle and get camp set up in record time. We had a comfortable cook tent. Chehala and Ally Lea whipped up a great meal of pork chops, potato salad, melon and brownies for dessert. We set up the pup tents and had a

comfortable camp. We were all exhausted and glad for a comfortable dry camp.

We awoke to a beautiful dry morning. We travelled the trail back to the meadow where Tommy knew where Madeleine Joachim's grave was located. We wandered on horseback though the meadow for the best part of an hour. Curtis Hallock and his 15-year-old son Payton, both descendants of Madeleine, went one-way while Tommy and Bazil went another.

Pictured on page-2:
Travelling up the
Berland River in high water.

Pictured on page-3:
Madeleine Joachim's grave site

From left to right:

- Gabe McDonald
- Payton Hallock
- Bazil Leonard
- Emma Matthew
- Curtis Hallock
- Tom Wanyandie

Both Curtis and Payton are
descendants of Madeleine Joachim



86-year -old Tom Wanyandie

It was like looking for a needle in a haystack. We travelled down, meadow after meadow. One of the crew came galloping yelling "Curtis found it!" There was a sense of relief amongst the trail crew.

The grave was very small, and Curtis said his family remembered that his Great-Grandmother was a tiny woman. There were some old sawed logs and some smaller ones. Willows were taking the grave site over. Nature was removing all signs of her grave site.

The crew constructed the log frame and finished painting the spirit house. The men quickly cut a tree and built a log base and put the spirit house on top. Tom had carved a big cross, which was attached to the frame. The boards were screwed into place, along with the cross and new interpretive signage.

Tom sang an honour song, said a prayer and blessed Madeleine Joachim's grave with Holy Water. She was born in Jasper House in 1847, the daughter of Hudson Bay Factor Colin Fraser and Theresa Karakuntie, daughter of Louis Karakuntie. She died in 1904 and was buried on the Big Berland River.

Madeleine's father, Colin Fraser was born in 1805 in Sutherlandshire, Scotland. He entered the service of the Hudson Bay Company on March 1827 in Stromness, Scotland. Colin Fraser manned the second Jasper House for fifteen years from 1835 to 1850. Fraser, a most engaging Scotsman, commanded the post with his Métis wife and nine children.

In 1831, prior to his arrival to Jasper, Colin married 18-year-old Nancy Beaudry, daughter of Joseph (Gandry) Beaudry, and Lesette Châtelain who was a descendant of one of the earlier French traders Louis Châtelain. Colin, his wife and two-year-old daughter Betsy started their long residence in the Athabasca Valley. When Colin went to Jasper, the aging J.B. Breland was still there and had already given his name to what everyone then called Baptiste's River, which is now called the Berland. In Colin's time in Jasper, there were many families living there including the Wanyandies, Karakunties, Findlays and others.

Although Colin was married to Nancy Beaudry, he had a union with Therese Karakuntie, daughter of Louis Karakuntie, one of the 1804 Iroquois voyageurs. In one archival document, Therese was listed as Colin Fraser's second wife. Colin and Therese had a daughter that they called Madeleine.

Therese Karakuntie was married to Francois Breland (Berland) and they had six children before Madeleine was born, and more four children after her birth. Madeleine was born in 1847, the same year as her half-brother Colin Fraser Jr.

Further verification is revealed by Adam Joachim, Colin Fraser's grandson and Madeleine's son. Adam's scrip notes that his mother was the daughter of Colin Fraser and Therese L'Iroquois Karaconti; and her 'parrain' or Godfather was Francois Breland. Colin Fraser also named Madeleine as his child on the Catholic Baptismal Certificate, and Therese's husband Francois Breland, was named as her Godfather.

Madeleine Fraser married Alexis Joachim on October 7, 1861. The Joachim family has its roots in the Montreal area. In 1818 the North West Company hired Joachim/Tonatanhan, an Iroquois from the Montreal area to go to Alberta to trap. The Macpherson database lists his full name as Pierre Yehonnatahe Tawanatahan/Joachim. In 1822-3, the Hudson Bay Company tried to convince some Iroquois stationed in the Lesser Slave Lake region, to go to the Smoky River area to trap, but only Pierre went. He married Marie Kalahash on October 5, 1853 and Father Lacombe performed the service in Jasper. The couple had six children; Louise, Marie, Martin, Charles, Adam and Angele.

Madeleine and Alexis' son, Adam Joachim was born at Berland Lake in 1875 and he claimed Iroquois heritage, and was proud of being Colin Fraser's grandson. Adam went to Seminary school in Montreal and could speak and read four languages: English, Cree, French and Latin. Adam then became the leader of the Métis that were evicted from Jasper National Park.

Adam Joachim became a prominent leader and legend in the Alberta Northern Rockies region. This educated and brilliant man became a founding member of the Métis Nation of Alberta, along with Isaac Plante on December 12, 1933. This information is outlined in a letter sent from Métis leader Jim Brady to Métis leader Malcolm Norris.

Adam Joachim lived his life as a businessman, trapping and guiding on Alberta's eastern slopes. His progeny continues in these business ventures to this day. Curtis Hallock is the great-grandson of Adam Joachim and 15-year-old Payton Hallock is the 2nd great-grandson.

We head back to camp at 7:30 pm and arrived at 9 pm. Chehala and Ally Lea had a fine dinner of chilli and rice. They had made a wonderful spice cake.

We had one more lay over day at Adam's Creek, after which we headed upstream. We were packed up and moving by 11:20 am. We faced many more crossings of the Berland River, and Rosie was in trouble crossing each and every time. Chehala stopped and took her halter off of Blaze and fastened it around Rosie's body. She was able to pull Rosie across the river dragging her on the downstream



side of her horse. Chehala said it was like pulling fifty pounds, as the current was pulling the dog downstream and she was holding onto the halter shank for dear life. It took everything she had to keep the dog alive.

We finally reached where the Berland River forked, and we followed the right channel up toward Lyle Moberly's trapline cabin. We rode on up the lush green willowed meadows, arriving at Sunset Meadows Camp at 5:30 pm. There was sporadic rain after we arrived, so there was a mad dash to cover our gear up. The girls threw themselves into setting up the kitch-

en. They made a supper of fried chicken with mushroom sauce, boiled potatoes, fresh veggies and peas. It was a meal fit for a king. We even had butter tarts for dessert. This was an amazing meal with cowboy coffee.

We all had a good sleep and awoke to another beautiful day. The trail crew rode across a muskeg meadow and through some pines up to a bench where there was a log fence with a wooden cross erected. There were the remnants of an old spirit house buried in the grave. The men proceeded to build the new spirit house and constructed it in record time.

Pictured above:
Travelling downstream on the
Sulphur River



Pictured above:
Washy Joe Agnes' 16-year-old
daughter's grave.

From left to right:
Susan Feddema-Leonard, Bazil
Leonard, Curtis Hallock, Payton
Hallock, Gabe McDonald,
Tom Wanyandie and
Jaely Moberly sitting.

Jaely and Emma started to
paint it when Tom, Payton and
Gabe went to cut a log for the
base of the grave. This was one
of Gabe McDonald's relations.
It was the grave site of the
daughter of Washy Joe Agnes
who died in 1901 at 16 years of
age. She was buried on Sunset
Creek, where it flows into the
Berland River. There were rem-
nants of the old Spirit House
which we placed against the
new one. Tom Wanyandie sang

a traditional song and said a
prayer after blessing the grave
with Holy Water.

We are doing more research
on the young Agnes women.
The information we have
outlined is from an Alberta
Forestry Lands and Wildlife
Map, 1990 Historical Version.

We packed up the next day
and left Sunset Meadows at
12:30 pm. We rode up and over



Travelling over Jackknife Pass



Jackknife Pass. It was a cold cloudy day and we faced some scattered rain as we rode. We arrived at Zenda Creek Camp at 7 pm. We were all tired from a long hard ride.

The next morning Curtis, Chehala, Payton, and Emma walked to Little Grave Flats to put up a plaque for Isabella Delorme. Tom, Jaely, Gabe and Susan rode an hour to Jacques Thappe's grave to place a plaque on the Spirit House. We

had one more stop at Big Grave Flats. We packed up at 12 noon on a nice sunny afternoon. We rode to Big Grave Flats arriving at 7 pm. We unpacked, and set up the cook tent. The girls passed out watermelon, lemon and butter tarts along with a hot cup of coffee. They served hamburger patties, mac and cheese, coleslaw, tossed salad, and brownies. We were all very tired after supper. Our crew sat around the campfire, telling stories.



This was our last day in camp, and we chose to relax. We all got up a bit late. It was a beautiful sunny day. Curtis and Tom went out to Pierre Delorme's grave to put the plaque on the grave.

It was time to head back to Grande Cache. We were packed up and leaving by 12 noon. We left in the rain, and it basically rained all the way home. We did get a few breaks from the rain, but the

reprieve was short. We arrived back at Curtis Hallock's home at Victor Lake at 7:30 pm on Friday July 13, 2018.

Pictured on page-10:
Placing a plaque at
Jacques Thappe's grave.

From left to right:
Gabe McDonald, Tom Wanyandie
and Jaely Moberly.
Tom is the grandson of Jacques Thappe

Picture above:
Curtis Hallock and Payton Hallock
at Isabella Delorme's grave at
Little Grave Flats.

Both Curtis and Payton are
descendants of the Delorme family.



Main Activities	Time/Task	What Was Done	Who Did This
Choosing of the youth	June 2018	Six youth were interviewed and chosen. They included two cousins, Payton Hallock, Emma Mathews, Ally Lea Lamb, Chehala Leonard, Gabe McDonald and Jaely Moberly.	Bazil Leonard
Choosing of Elders for this project	June 2018	Tom Wanyandie and Bazil Leonard were chosen for this project	Willmore Wilderness Foundation
Pre-construction of Spirit Houses	June-July 2018	Construction of Spirit Houses by Mark Wood and Bazil Leonard.	Spirit Houses were packed by packhorse into Willmore Wilderness Park.
Purchasing of food and equipment	July 2018	Food and equipment were purchased for the project.	Willmore Wilderness Foundation
Packtrip where the Houses will be built.	July 2018	Youth and Elders were moved to four different campsites in order to erect the Spirit Houses. Trails were cleared in order to access the Spirit House locations.	Trail Crew
Social Media of the trip will be posted	July, August, September 2018	Social Media has been posted and will continue to be disseminated	Willmore Wilderness Foundation Staff.
Final Report	October 2018	A Final Report with photographs and GPS coordinates will be submitted.	Heather Devoe



Outcomes

Youth were taught the ways of their ancestors about the ways of the trail. They were given hands on experiences in saddling and packing horses; using the age old “Diamond Hitch,” which is becoming a lost art. Youth were taught to look after the tack and gear. They learned how to build camp, using wall tents and a cook tent. They were instructed on how to erect the wood cook stove (the heart of the camp) and learned the old traditions. Youth were taught to hobble horses in the evening, and send them out to pasture; and were shown to jingle horses back into camp in the morning.

Youth were taught their history through experiential learning. They saw the packtrails and camps their forefathers used. They saw the graves, and participated in putting the spirit houses on the sites, so future generations will know about the early people of the Canadian Rockies. Spirit houses on these grave sites have helped to bring awareness of the sacred sites. Youth were immersed on an experiential level, learning about their history. Curtis Hallock, Payton Hallock, Gabe McDonald, Chehala Leonard, Jaely Moberly and Tom Wanyandie are the modern relatives of the grave sites we restored. Ally Lea Lamb is a Métis youth, who also learned about the rich history, culture and traditions of the Canadian Rockies.



Pictured on page-12:
Jaely Moberly and Curtis Hallock
building a Spirit House

Pictured above:
Placing a plaque on
Pierre Delorme's grave site at
Big Grave Flats.



OBJECTIVES COMPLETED:

- The youth participated in the project and gained a wealth of knowledge about the history of the area, about their traditions and their ancestors.
- Youth had hands on experience in building and cleaning the grave sites and building the Spirit Houses.
- Youth participated in the historic horseback culture skills that included basic horsemanship training, saddling, packing skills and more. Payton Hallock, Gabe McDonald, Chehala Leonard, Jaely Moberly,

Emma Matthews and Ally Lea Lamb are capable of packing, saddling horses, packing boxes and many of the traditional trail activities.

- Youth had hands on experience clearing trail, replacing woodpiles and clearing garbage.
- The youth learned the lay of the land, the trail networks and the locations of the graves.
- Youth learned the history of the Rocky Mountains ensuring that the historic traditions are passed on to future generations.
- Youth helped build two Spirit Houses that will remain in Willmore Wil-

derness Park.

- Youth gained valuable experiential hands-on training that allowed them to learn the same skills and traditions that their ancestors used.
- This project was filmed, photographed and will be shared on social media, so that others can learn from the activities.
- Graves were GPS'd and archived for future reference.

Pictured above from left to right:

Payton Hallock

Bazil Leonard

Tom Wanyandie

Susan Feddema-Leonard

Curtis Hallock



Trailing on the upper Berland River

RECOMMENDATION:

We should return to all the grave sites in 2019 and erect plaques and interpretive signs at the Young Delorme Girl at Kvass Flats, Asa Hunting and Mildred Shaw's baby grave on the Muddy; George Hargreaves on Casket Creek and to the Unknown Trappers grave at Barrie Lake.

George Hargreave's grave site is overgrown with trees and willow and the site is hard to find. It needs to be cleared and marked so future travellers can find it.

There is one more grave site that needs a Spirit House on Pauline Creek. Tom Wanyandie showed Basil Leonard this grave site during the 1990's. A 2007 fire destroyed the burial site. A recently discovered audio tape of an interview by (*deceased*) Outfitter/Trapper Art Allen, talked about the grave site near the mouth of Pauline Creek. We recommend that this Spirit House be restored during the summer of 2019.

CONCLUSION:

Pictures and film footage will be incorporated in the People & Peaks Productions documentaries; in Willmore Wilderness Foundation social media, transmedia, websites and in storytelling.

For more information contact Heather Devoe, Chief Financial Officer | Production Manager

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Willmore Wilderness Foundation

Pictured from top to bottom:

Ally Lee Lamb - cook's helper

Emma Matthews and Payton Hallock - wranglers

Gabe McDonald and Elder Tom Wanyandie - trail hands

Elder Tom Wanyandie

