

LETTER FROM ANGUS MacDONALD*

Colville, 4th June '70.

Confidential

My dear McKenzie

I have your note by Joe¹ from Lytton and that other one you left here for me. I scarcely find words.....

The Company say that terms will be made with the Gentlemen of the West² and that they are forthcoming. Perhaps I'll take no decided step till they come. Meanwhile.....or say Kamloops.

Vast emigrations are in view from the East and the West will grow and land will be valuable. And a home is always so. My intentions are to get what I can for my improvements here. See Duncan³ fixd at the Flat-Head Post and if you join your fate with mine North or somewhere I'll do everything in my power to help you and make you happy.

Mr. Finlayson is well disposed to you. I made suggestions to him in your behalf

Two horses were brought here by Joe. to blacks. he says he left the sorel of Peon⁴ dying in the Colville Mountain.

Poor Allard⁵ is dismissed. a total drunkard and raving mad with delerium tremens. If you want charge of Shepherd⁶ you can go and wait to close it up whilst looking for something else I

*Angus MacDonald was Chief Trader at Fort Colville (originally spelled Colville) and this letter was to his son-in-law, James McKenzie, a former Hudson's Bay Company clerk at the same fort. The letter and notes are furnished by William S. Lewis.—Editor.

1 Joe LaFleur; he accompanied Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie on their journey with the H. B. Co's. records from fort Colville. See Reminiscences of Christina MacDonald McKenzie Williams, Washington Historical Quarterly, Vol. XIII, page 114.

2 In July 1863, through a reorganization, a new Hudson's Bay Company took over by deed of transfer the assets of the old company theretofore existing. On 10th September, 1869, by final award under the treaty of 1846 the new Company was given by the American Government \$450,000 in its own name, and \$200,000 to its affiliated company, the Puget Sound Agricultural Association. *Treaties and Conventions, 1776-1887*, pages 469-470.

The "trade partners," or commissioned officers, i. e., Chief Traders and Chief Factors, were in 1871 paid by the new company £107,055 (or \$520,287.00) or a third of the amount received by the Company from the Canadian Government for the surrender on November 19, 1869, of the land and territories embraced within "Rupert's Land," but these trade partners or Chief Traders and Chief Factors were excluded from any participation in the American Award. Malcolm McLeod, son of John McLeod—one of the signers of the deed poll of 1821 and one of the early company officers in the Columbia River District—made an unsuccessful attempt in the Courts of Canada to recover the share claimed by these officers in the American Award. *Malcolm McLeod's Brief on the claims of the late Chief Factors and Chief Traders against the Hudson's Bay Company*. These matters are what the writer refers to.

3 Angus McDonald's son.

4 Baptiste or William Peone, employee of the company, who settled at Peone Prairie, Spokane County. McKenzie did not take company horses on the trip.

5 Jason Allard. Allard afterwards recovered and reformed, and removed to British Columbia, where he died about two years ago near Ft. Langley.

6 The H. B. Co. post on the Columbia, just north of the international boundary line.

will simplyfy the accounts and only keep Donald⁷ we close with this winter the whole District.⁸

I enclose a note for Christina⁹ and if you give her a kiss on the two cheeks and on the mouth for us three I will remain what I am

A. M. Donald.

Mr. James McKenzie.

⁷ Angus McDonald's son.

⁸ The closing of the Hudson's Bay Company's business in the American side of the boundary, established by the treaty of 1846. See hereon Reminiscences of Christina Mac Donald, McKenzie Williams, *Washington Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XIII, pages 107-117.

⁹ His daughter, Mrs. McKenzie: *Washington Historical Quarterly*, *Supra*.