

## INDIANS OF THE FRENCH FUR TRADERS AND EXPLORERS TIME.

Petite Reynards: Little foxes of Verendrye 1742.

In the present writer opinion Verendrye's Gros Ventres of the prairies were the Atsinas and were the western derivatives of the Fox nation because of the following considerations.

1. The Atsinas like the western foxes are of the Algonquin linguistic stock.
2. The name Petite Reynards seems to imply that they were a part of the Fox nation found by Verendrye in 1742 in the Black Hills in close proximity to the Black Feet his "Beaux Hommes". In two villages respectively two and four days from them and nearer to them than any other nation encountered on his route were the Atsinas who were in subsequent years friends and neighbors of the Blackfeet until a century and a quarter they were placed on the same reservation in N. Montana. 1869-70 the Assiniboins became their neighbors by being placed on the same reservations.
3. The Atsinas own name for themselves was "Aa ninend" said to mean white clay people while it is said of the foxes that the upper part of their body was painted and often the print of a hand in white clay was marked on the back or shoulders" (Halk Amer. Ind. 1 pp. 113 & 473)
4. It is possible that a part of the Foxes had gone to the Far west because they had conceived a hatred of the Fr. on account of the aid they had given to the Chippewas and other by furnishing them fire arms and because they gathered the various tribes for the purpose of destroying the Foxes. "It was this tribe that in 1712 planned the attack on the fort at Detroit" It so they seem to have forgotten that hatred in their western homes or else they did not recognize Verendrye's part as of the enemy but it may be that the Little Foxes emigration to the far west had preceded the Fox contact with the French

*Copied from notes of S.W.C. which were in  
Pencil and almost illegible.  
D.S.*

Copied from almost  
allegible notes of  
H.W.C. 9.

Mallet Brothers. 1739. Route by day.

Left Julesburg morning of the 15th June. South Platte at mouth of river of Bluffs (Lodgepole Cr.)

16th

17th River of white Bluffs (Red Willows Cr.)

18th (1871) Amable (N. Fork Republican at Wray Colo.)

19th "1111" de Anxieties (Articlee Fk. Republican Liver)

20th <sup>1889</sup> Causes 1 S. Fk Republican River, lost 7 horses

2151

22 of the Arrow (Perhaps indicates flint which occurs on the head of the Smoky. They must have been on the head of the Smoky Hill River)

23 Another river unnamed and then they enter the plains where they have only buffalo dung for fuel. This is probably the divide east of the Big Sandy where is a particularly dry barren stretch.

24 Another river unnamed.

25 to 30

Then they cross rivers daily until on the 30th they find the first signs of the Spaniards on creeks bordering a river which is probably is the Arkansas and as they had gone 155 leagues and had 110 leagues yet to go they probably struck the Arkansas on the eastern edge of Colo. between the Big Sandy and the state line.

June 30 to July 5:

Journeyed 5 days or 75 miles up the Arkansas to a point not far from the mouth of the Purgatoire River.

July 6-12.

South west to the north base of the Raton Range where they camped at the base of the first mountain. No mention is made of a river which might be the Purgatoire so they probably followed Rulo Cr. up the divide just east of Emory's Gap or Trinchera Pass.

July 14:

Reached the upper Canadian River which they called "Rouge" and which the Spaniards call the Rio Colorado. Thence they said it was 21 leagues to Picuris (pueblo) (which is correct).

Pierre Mallet (1780)

Living; apparently at  
where Charles & Hattie  
lived. June 10, 1780.

(See pp. 222 + 223  
Billon's Annals of  
in its Early Days.

A good full page illustration for the chapter on the Mallet exped. &c., is Pl. 11 of Water-Supply Paper 230, entitled "Sandy Bed of Platte River".

(Can perhaps borrow the  
phot engraving from U. S. G. S.)

10. *some of the*  
*3. W. H.*  
July 23, 1903, Sylvester Watts, of St. Louis ~~Mo.~~ (who came  
to ~~Missouri~~ in 1857), says.

In 1697, a Mallet was born in Kaskaskia.  
In 1715 Jacques Lalonde and Marie Titus had  
a daughter born at Kaskaskia, and in ~~1721~~  
1721 ~~had two sons, Etienne and Gabriel~~  
Etienne Lalonde, born at same  
place; of whom Etienne <sup>one of the children of</sup> married Jeanne  
Perthuis. (She was a daughter of Pierre  
Perthuis and Catherine Mallet, who was  
probably of the Mallet <sup>over</sup> of the famous expedition  
from Mo. R. to Santa Fe in 173-.) They had a  
number of children among whom was Jean  
Baptiste Lalonde, and the latter was the  
father of Baptiste Lalond, the Pioneer  
trader of S. Fe. Baptiste Lalonde ~~the~~  
continued to live in Santa Fe and finally  
died there <sup>(as Hon. B. Poivre writes to Mr. Watts)</sup> and <sup>some</sup> ~~several~~ numerous  
descendants of his are today living chiefly  
in the country north of S. Fe, under the  
Spanish form (Lalanda,) of the name.

*No. - N. W. Trade in 1723.*  
In the Analytical Index of the Whole of the  
Public Documents relative to Louisiana, deposited  
in the Archives of the Department de la Marine, et des  
Colonies at "Bibliothèque du Roi" at Paris. By  
Edmond J. Frontell in Vol. ["Part"] 2 of the  
First Series of French Hist. Colls of 18, on p.  
57 of the vol. we read [Doc.] "92d. 1723 - memorial  
on the rivers, lands and Indians of Missouri.  
This document is interesting, and shows that  
there was a traffic then carrying on between  
Missouri and Mexico." This document 92d  
is listed under the head of "Portfolio No. II."

JOURNAL OF LAVERENDRYE, 1738-39. (Translation.) Extracted from pages 1 to 29 of Report on Canadian Archives by Douglas Brymmer, Archivist. 1889. (Ottawa: 1890.) [The French original of the Journal is on alternate left-hand pages; the Translation, on alternate right-hand pages, of Report.]  
NORTH-WESTERN EXPLORATIONS.

~~Journal de Laverendrye~~  
JOURNAL OF LAVERENDRYE.

~~XXXXXX~~  
1738-39.

Journal in the form of a letter, from the 20th of July, 1738, date of my departure from Michilimakinak, to May, 1739, sent to Marquis de Beauharnois, Commander of the Military Order of St. Louis, Governor and Lieutenant General of the whole of New France, lands and country of Louisiana, by his very humble servant Laverendrye, lieutenant of a company of the detachment of the marine in Canada, commissioned by his orders for the discovery of the Western Sea.

I had the honor, Sir, last year to notify you of my departure from Michilimakinak in six canoes, twenty-two men, so fitted out as to be capable of making great speed. I reached the flat lands on the morning of the first of August, the twelfth day after leaving. I stopped there about three hours to speak to the Indians as your representative. I found there only the chief of the Gamanestigouya, a few old and a few young people. I had already known that they had all left to go among the Sioux. I caused to be assembled what men there were, made them a present of tobacco and wheat, which they value more than merchandise, which is given to them cheap. I began my speech by finding fault with them for going to war against the word they had given me last year when passing among them, to undertake nothing till my return; that I brought them your word that you were not for the present inclined to have war; that every one should keep quiet on his lands; that you had your reasons for this; you would have them warned if you required their services. I then communicated news, about which they are very curious?

The chief answered me at once: My father, be not vexed with us; parties have been raised against our will. It is the Canard (Duck, Indian name of M. LaPlante) who wished it, to tell the truth, speaking with fine presents from our father, which thou seest here with us? We did not wish to listen, expecting thy return; we are not children to have two words; thou hast been long with us; thou shouldest know us; we have always been attached to our father; we shall always be so. I encouraged them in these good dispositions, to listen after this only to chiefs entrusted with your orders, to hunt well in order to supply the wants of their families, that the French would bring your bounty to them upon their own land. I bade them adieu, wishing to take advantage of the good weather for the rest of the day. I arrived on the 5th at Gamanestigouya. I had your orders pub-

lished and left a copy with the French who kept the fort, concerning <sup>that</sup> ~~the~~ post and that of Tekamamihouenne. On the 22d of the present month I found a war chief, Monsony, with a small band, who was expecting me near the little straight on the said Lake. They begged me to camp early to give them <sup>the</sup> news. I did so and made them a present in your name, then read to be handed to M. de Lamarque, who was to arrive there at an early day. I left on the morning of the 26th, and went to the Lake Tekamamihouenne. to them the replies which you had had the goodness to make to their speeches to keep quiet for the present, to take good care of their lands, so that the French, who came from so long a distance to supply their wants,

should always find the road open. The chief answered me: I thank thee, my father, for having had pity on us. I will carry the news to all our people who are gone for the wild rice; I shall make them joyful at thy return and in relating to them the will of our father, with the words thou hast brought and the account which the old man has given me, as well of our father as of all he has seen below. Thou wilt find many people at thy fort of Lake of the Woods; all the chiefs expect thee. In finishing my speech to them, I recommended them to continue very faithful to the French, not to forget your words, to hunt well, so as to satisfy the traders. He answered with loud acclamations of gratitude, assuring me that he would never forget all that I had told him. I did my best to encourage him and went to Fort St. Charles, Lake of the Woods. On the 31st I did not find Lacolle, chief of the Monsony; I sent to notify him. Wishing to speak to all the chiefs together, I deferred speaking to them till the 3rd of September, when I collected all the head men in my room, and made a present in your name to the three chiefs, Lacolle, Lamicoine and leChenail, of whom I have several times spoken in my previous journals. I began by the answers to their speeches, which you had had the goodness to make, emphasizing strongly each paragraph, in order to make them understand the [kindness] you felt for them; that all [you] had allowed them was well assured to them, so long as they on their side should be obedient to your word. I knew that the old man whom I had brought with me, entrusted with their words, although with empty hands, had made a faithful report to them of the kindness [you] had shown him; he constantly sang your praises; that they had a good father, who ~~should be pleased~~ should be pleased by doing his will. LaColle answered for all the others, that he did not cease to weep for my son and all the Frenchmen; that the lake was still red with their [blood], which called for vengeance, which he had not been able to take as he wished. It was not for them, people without intellect, to ask your reasons for keeping <sup>them</sup> quiet for the present; that they were obedient children; agreed to your will; would keep <sup>their</sup> lands as you ordered them, still hoping that you would obtain vengeance at some future time for the miserable stroke the Sioux had made on their lands. However, you were the master to punish or to pardon; that he thanked you in the name of all and prayed you to acknowledge them as your true children; that they would always be faithful to us; you ordered them to keep their lands; that was to their interest. Lamicoine gave profuse thanks for the great care I had had of his brother. It was ~~for~~ <sup>from</sup> the old man whom I had brought with me that he had learned ~~that~~ he would never see him more, begging me to assure you of his gratitude; that whilst he lived he would not forget the good you had done to his brother; that it would be for him and his to be <sup>always</sup> attached to the French; that my return had brought joy to all; that their joy would not be long continued, as according to what his brother had told him, I was going to winter a long way off; that he prayed me not to abandon them; if I wished to go far away from them to leave one of my children; that he wished it was in his power to follow me; that he would do so heartily; that his brother and his nephew who expected to follow me, would take his place. I encouraged them to keep their word and to hunt well to supply the wants of their families; that I was going further on; that was your will; I wished to increase the number of your children; that I left my eldest son with them in my place, who was adopted by the nations and would inform them of your words. The council ended with many thanks. I then thought of preparing to leave; had my son received as commandant in my absence, and had an order published. Taking the two others with me, I deferred leaving until the 11th of September, waiting for M. Lamarque, to whom I had promised not to ~~hasten~~ hasten, so as to give him the opportunity of joining me, he having promised me at Michilimakinak to make haste, so that he might come with me in the autumn for the discovery of the Mandans, who were formerly called Ouachipouanne, according to the Monsony, Courtchouatte; Crees, Mandans;

these are the names of the nation. Seeing on the 10th of the month that he had not arrived, and everything being in good order, as well at the fort as for my departure, I left on the 11th, as I have already stated, hoping that he would join me soon to come with me. I arrived at Fort Marpas [Maurepas] on the 22nd, where I had the arms examined, published your orders concerning the said post, gave a copy of it to Mr. Larivière, clerk to these gentlemen, and selected five of his men to come with me. As I had agreed, I left nine men with Mr. de Larivière. I went to the fork of the Assiniboiles (Assiniboine) on the 24th, where I found ten Cree huts and two war chiefs, who expected me, with a quantity of ~~of~~ meat, having been notified that I was coming? They begged me to agree to remain, to have the pleasure of seeing us and of giving us something to eat. I agreed, being happy to speak to them. I sent for the two chiefs in my tent. I knew that they went every year to the English; it had been reported to me that there was one who had received a belt from the English to play a bad trick on the French. I told the one who had been accused everything that had been said of him. I had the honour of writing to you last year from Michilimakinak; of the rumours current on the subject? He answered: My father, I know there are many envious men who speak against me; I have not been to the English for more than six years. I sent, indeed, during the last years that the French abandoned us, and it was necessary to have our wants supplied. Ask those who have been on my account, who are ~~here~~, if they have heard of any such accusation. I can assure thee the Englishman is quiet and does not speak of the French. They are liars who have set these rumours afloat. Thou wilt know the truth in time. So long as the French shall hold our lands here, we promise thee not to go elsewhere. I made them a small present to encourage them to keep their word; I told them everything I had said to the others, as well your orders as the news. Our old man then gave a great account of his journey, which afforded them much pleasure. The chief whom I had accused said to me: My father, we thank thee that thou hast spoken well below to our father for us; we know that he has had pity on us by sending to us Frenchmen on our lands to supply our wants; we will keep quiet as he desires; the Sioux should do the same; our hearts are still sick for thy son who came the first to build a fort on our lands; we loved him much; ~~and~~ I have once already been at war to avenge him; I have destroyed only ten huts, which is not enough to satisfy us; but now our father has ordered us to keep quiet; we shall do so. He then asked me where I intended to go; that the River Assiniboine was very low; that we ran the risk of making our canoes useless; that we were going among people who did not know how to kill the beaver, and covered themselves only with ox skin, which we did not need. They were a people without intelligence, who had never seen the French and could not know them. I answered that I wished to go in the autumn among that nation of whites who had been so much spoken of; that I would ascend the river as far as I could to put myself in a position to make my journey according to <sup>our</sup> ~~my~~ orders; that I wished to increase the number of our children to learn to hunt on the Assiniboine and to give them intellect, and that next year I would go elsewhere. Thou dost run a great risk, my father, that the canoes will leave empty. There are many Assiniboines, it is true, but they do not know how to hunt beavers; I wish that thou shouldst give them intelligence. I left on the 26th. My old man asked me to remain a few days with the Crees, who urgently asked him to remain with them and that he would rejoin me shortly. As he had his vehicle I consented willingly, and recommended him to encourage these people to hunt well, to carry provisions to the French forts and to keep their word not to go to the English. He told me that he would speak to them as well as he could, and that he hoped I would be satisfied. I found the water very low, there having been no rain last summer. The river flows from the west, winding about greatly, wide, with a strong current and many sand bars; it is lined with fine woods on the banks and the prairies ex-

tend beyond sight, through whose extent are many cattle and deer. I chose to go by land, following the prairie; with the useless people in the canoes. The road is much shorter by the prairies; several points of the river are cut at once, and a straight road can be kept; game is along the river in great abundance. I had not marched long without meeting several Assiniboines who, having been warned that I was ascending their river, came to meet me. I still kept on my road, deferring to speak to them on their own lands. The company was increasing daily. I marched six days, making good use of the time. On the evening of the 2nd of October the Indians notified me that I could not ascend the river further, the water being too low; that my canoes could only pass the woods, provided all the people were at the portage which goes to the Lake of the Prairies, for this is the road of the Assiniboines in going to the English. Being here, thou wilt stop everyone; thou wouldest go to the Mandans; thou art close to the road. I consulted what we should do, believing that we were about sixty leagues from the fork by water and about thirty-five to forty by land, by taking the prairies. All present, seeing that we could not ~~pass~~ further and that we ran a great risk of damaging our canoes so that we could not leave, being in a place without resources for repairing them, having neither gum nor resin, felt that it was more suitable to remain in a place where there was plenty and which was on the road to go to the English, that we had reason to hope well of the people and all persons who do not go to <sup>certain</sup> Fort Maurepas. I resolved on the morning of the 3rd to select an advantageous place to build a fort, which I made them begin immediately. I still hoped that M. de la Marque would come to join me. If I had gone higher up he would not have been able to find me. I spoke to the Assiniboines whilst they were building an oven. I assembled them ~~near~~ near my tent, made them a present in your name, of powder, ball, tobacco, axes, knives, paring-knives, awls, the whole much valued among those who are in great need of everything. They received me with great ceremony; many with tears in testimony of their joy in exchange for their ~~griefs~~ griefs. I received them among the number of your children, giving them afterwards full instructions respecting your orders, repeating them several times in order that they might comprehend. That appeared to give them great pleasure. They thanked me greatly, promised to do wonders. I recommended them to inform the Assiniboines of the Red River that there were Frenchmen among them; that the French would not abandon them; so long as they had intelligence they ought to know the kindness you had for them by sending them what they needed from such a distance; that their relative, the old man, whom I had brought with me, could tell them what had taken place with us daily. He, in truth, spared nothing to inform them and to teach them what it is to have to do with the French; all ended in great weeping and thanks. Some days after, I secured a guide whom, with others, I paid to accompany me on my search and to carry the baggage. On the evening of the 9th Mr. de la Marque with the Sieur Nolant, his brother, and eight men in two canoes arrived, which gave me much pleasure. I testified my gratitude to Mr. de la Marque for the trouble had taken to bring us reinforcements; I questioned him if he had left many people at Fort St. Charles, Lake of the Woods, and whom he had left at ~~Fort~~ Maurepas. He answered me that he had left eight men at the first with two traders, having brought all the canoes he had, not because he hoped to be able to load them, not having been able to bring the heavy goods, but that he had promised he would join me, and did not wish to break his word, that I required people for my expedition, that he had brought them, without injury to himself, not requiring his people during the winter. I thanked him telling him that if he joined in our expedition he would be saved, himself and all his people, the expense until they returned. He told me he wished to share the expense. I answered that that could not be, it was enough for me that he supplied the men and himself without the necessity