

The Tokeland camp of Charles E. McChesney



Photo loaned by Albert Reed of Seattle

MCCHESNEY INTERVIEW near Tokeland in 1913

"Doctor" McChesney seated on bench under tree, with Loyal Clark, on whose boat the Indians were brought from Bay Center to Tokeland, seated on ground to the right.
Center, facing camera, "Princess Patty" George of the Mason family. Margaret Skamock (Squamaup) Statement 19 back to camera, Emma Luscier, daughter of Samuel Mallet
Far right, on bench: Captain Jim Huckquist and wife Susie
Reclining on grass, black hat, center rear: John Hawks



This photo the property of Edna Clark Olsen, South Bend
Edna is the daughter of Loyal Clark who transported group of Indians to Tokeland for interviews with McChesney in 1913. Captain Clark is seated to right of McChesney with only his hat showing.

MC CHESNEY INTERVIEWING INDIANS near Tokeland in 1913

(McChesney seated at far left, recording statements)
Mrs. George Allen Charley faces camera (left center); others pictured include Adeline Pollard; Captain Jim and his wife Susie; Margaret Skamock (Squamaup); the two Wilson girls, Dorothy and Pearl (ink on faces); "Deaf George" and his wife "Princess Patty" of the Mason family; and Emma Luscier, daughter of Samuel Mallet.

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In 1899, the Lower Band of Chinook filed a land claim against the United States seeking compensation of \$625,000 for their homelands. The 1851 treaties signed with the Lower Chinook, Wahkiakum, Clatsop, Willapa, and Cathlamet had remained in congressional limbo, neither ratified nor rejected. The McChesney Rolls included 115 affidavits that confirmed the descent of tribal members from signers and/or those present at the 1851 treaty negotiations. As a result, between 1912 and 1914, the government acknowledged the Chinook Indian Nation and the debts owed for lands illegally taken.

To date less than \$100,000 has been paid to the Chinook Indian Nation for our vastly more valuable lands!

The interviews collected by McChesney continue to connect Chinook members directly to those who started the fight for recognition.

This gathering of Lower Columbia River Indians at the McChesney camp in 1913 included many important culture bearers who bridged the gap from aboriginal times to the modern Chinook Indian Nation.