



Military men who had been associated with the American Fort Colville; Native Americans who had taken up farming; and American settlers.

Descendants of all these folks would be interested in seeing where their ancestors lived. That is a trickier question than you might expect. The maps themselves are not in a real-world coordinate system. They are hand-drawn and not surveyed to any great extent. When I try to register them in my Geographic Information System, the modern information is quickly distorted. That doesn't make it useless, just imprecise. You wouldn't want someone claiming that their great grandfather lived on your place based on these maps. But someone might be very interested in knowing generally where their great grandfolks lived.

Another issue is spelling. Names written in longhand without specific information on how to spell a last name can be interpreted different ways. Anyone familiar with genealogy will be familiar with this problem. Similarly, place names have changed repeatedly over the last 150 years. The valley south of Chewelah was called "Fools Prairie." It was named after a Kalispel Chief who led a band there to take advantage of the muskrat population which could be harvested all winter long. The valley near present day Colville was once called "White Mud Plains" because it was near White Mud Farm, an area where horses were pastured in the winter. One of my favorites, near "Chimaken Bridge" (Presumably either Tshimakain, or Chamokane) is called Dismal Swamp. Are we having fun yet?

| 1856 Map      | McDonald Map  |
|---------------|---------------|
| Sudbrink      | Dennis        |
| Bush-a        | Buche's       |
| Jengeraw      | Gendrois      |
| Lorin Mathew  | L. Mathew     |
| Mathew Hayden | Hayden's      |
| Albert Dupee  | Keats         |
| Joe Laparay   | Lepre's       |
| John Wynn     | Wyn's         |
| Bates         | John R. Bates |

The biggest map, the 1865 map, was discovered by Sue Richart and Lynn Wells in the Washington State University Archives. WSU scanned and assembled the several pages into one long image. It's big, really, really big. I printed it to an Adobe PDF file that would be 6 feet tall and 2 feet wide full scale. Even then the names would be nearly too small to read. Luckily as a PDF you can zoom in and it becomes very readable. Unluckily it is 111 MB and difficult to email or in some cases download.

The table above compares names on the 1865 map to names on a map assembled in a land claim compensation case brought by Angus McDonald on behalf of the Hudson's Bay Company. It illustrates the promise and the problems with these old maps. Some names are very British and others basically French. Some properties may have changed hands. There is no information on the exact date, creator, scale, or cause for creating the 1865 map. The name was assigned by estimating the year it depicts.

So how can we make the information in these maps accessible to historians and descendants of these people? I have a plan. Well, it is more like a request. The 1865 map goes from well-north of Colville clear to the Spokane River. For people looking for a specific name and wanting to know generally where it is on that map, I have created a grid that covers every 5 square inches on the map. North to South the blocks are labelled A to M. West to East they are labelled 1 – 4. Surveyors call this a "bingo" grid. That makes 52 grid blocks. Truthfully, most of these blocks don't have any names in them. I am hoping that folks who are curious about this history can catalog the names in each of those blocks. So, for instance, most of the names in the table above are from block D2. That way we can create a map with an index that will make it easier to know what names are on the map and where to look for them.

As usual with history projects, this will lead to even more mysteries and work. Just who were these people? Are their descendants still in the area? If not, where did they go? In the end, history is personal to someone. If it might be personal to you, contact Joseph Barreca, [Joe.Barreca@gmail.com](mailto:Joe.Barreca@gmail.com) and take on a grid block. Together we can do this.