

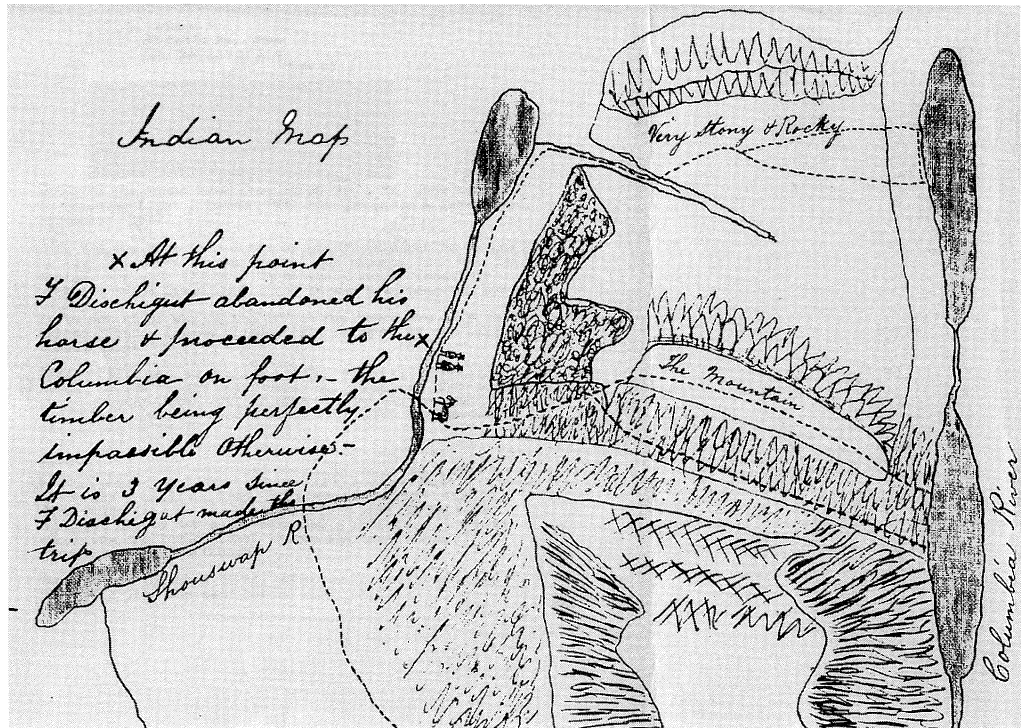
INDIAN MAP



In the summer of 1862 Governor James Douglas sent W.G. Cox, Magistrate and Gold Commissioner at Rock Creek, to explore the territory between the head of Okanagan Lake and the Columbia River with a view to establishing a “horse road” (a pack-horse trail). Cox and his two Native guides (who, he said, were the “only Indians acquainted with that portion of the road”) did not complete this exploration. Starting from Tal d’Épinette at the head of Okanagan Lake, and passing the site of Vernon, they travelled as far east as the future Cherryville where, owing to a shortage of food and dense, fallen timber, they turned back. However, his guides had reached the Columbia River three years before with “F. Dischigut,” probably François Duchoquette, a Hudson’s Bay Company trader, who, in 1859, was in charge of the almost abandoned Fort Okanagan. Cox undoubtedly questioned his guides about their knowledge of the territory he had not seen, and the three of them created the map that is reproduced on the opposite page. It appears with the title “Indian Map” on a fair copy of Cox’s map made by Cpl. J. Conroy. Survey Branch, Lands and Works Department, Royal Engineers.

Cox probably drew the map, but the information on it came from his Native guides. The two lakes shown on “Shouswap River” are now Mabel and Sugar Lakes. The horse was abandoned near the site of Cherryville, at or near where Cox gave up. Probably one of the two men in top hats is Duchoquette. More important, the map shows several Native routes between the Shuswap and Columbia Rivers. From the vicinity of Cherryville, two routes ran east, either over “the mountain” (Cherry Ridge) or by a lower and more southerly route up Cherry Creek and down Plant Creek. In 1859, however, Duchoquette and his Native guides had apparently continued north to Sugar Lake. There they turned east and probably hiked to Sitkum Creek and along the north side of South Fosthall Creek to the Columbia River, along which they travelled south a short distance before returning.

R.C. (Bob) Harris



Cox's MS Report and "Map of proposed road," 8 August 1862, BCARS, Colonial Correspondence, F377/12 [MSBC 1862-82A]; Conroy's tracing of Cox's map, 3 September 1862, Surveyor General Plan 26 T3, Roads and Trails [MSBC 1862-82B, sh 1/2 and 2/2].