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LIFE IN MOOSEHIDE

NAME: _____



BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Princess Pat Isaac is the daughter of Chief Isaac. Chief Isaac was a well-known chief of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (Hän) during the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896, when thousands of people migrated to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in homeland. This made the Hän people a small minority compared to the tens of thousands of newcomers. To get away from the surge of people who were flocking to the area in search of gold, Chief Isaac relocated his people to Moosehide, a reserve located just a few kilometers away from Dawson City.

AS TOLD BY PRINCESS PAT ISAAC:

"The Indians, before contact, had their own methods of government or rules of conduct. Records showed Indians continued to do this in Moosehide. Moosehide Indian Council was founded March 1, 1921. The council was elected and records were kept of the meetings. They made law, anyone come to Moosehide with bottle, they put in jail. Also had to tell where he got that booze. No such thing as drunks then. Even when they have dances, everybody laughing, happy. Thats when I was a kid growing up.

Those days white people just gave people any names. All brothers sometimes have different names. My father had only one name, Isaac. It's a wonder the ministers didn't give him more than a first name. His brother named Johnathon Wood, he was a preacher at Moosehide. Another brother is Walter Ben, he was a preacher in Eagle, Alaska."

Source: Isaac, J. (2009). Chief Isaac's People of the River, "Family Stories." chiefisaac.com/family_stories.html

