

Location of Arrow Rock

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1825, Alexander Ross

Alexander Ross first worked for the Astorians and was located at Fort Okanogan as early as 1811, where he continued under the North West Company.¹ He later worked under the Hudson's Bay Company.² In 1825 while working for the Hudson's Bay Company he traveled up the Columbia River to the Arrow Lakes. That summer he reached Lower Arrow Lake where he reported the following:

At a point on the west side [of Lower Arrow Lake] a number of figures of men and animals have been rudely portrayed on the naked rocks with red ochre; and into a large cavity, at a considerable height above high-water mark, a number of arrows have been shot, which remain as a menace left by some distant tribe who had passed there on a warlike expedition. The natives understand these signs, and can tell, on examining the arrows, to which tribe they belong.

On these rocks the high-water mark of former years is indicated by a streak on the stones, and by quantities of drift-wood lodged in the fissures and clefts of the rocks at a distance of more than thirty feet above the present surface of the water.³

Ross was mistaken when he said the "west side" of the lake. Other accounts consistently report

¹Anglin, Ron, *Forgotten Trails: Historical Sources of the Columbia's Big Bend Country* (Pullman: Washington State University Press, 1995), p. 44-55.

Keith, H. Lloyd. *Fort Okanogan: "A Dull and Dreary Place," Key to the Thompson River District in the Fur Trade, 1811-1860*. Okanogan County Historical Society: Okanogan, Washington; 2008, p. 15.

Sibley, Mike. *A History of Fort Okanogan*. Michael J. Sibley and Heritage Productions: Oroville, Washington, 2005, p. 8..

²Watson, Bruce McIntyre. *Lives Lived West of the Divide: A Biographical Dictionary of Fur Traders Working West of the Rockies, 1793-1858*, Volume 2. Kelowna, British Columbia: Centre for Social, Spatial, and Economic Justice, University of British Columbia, 2010, p. 833.

³Ross, Alexander. *The Fur Hunters of the Far West; A Narrative of Adventures in the Oregon and Rocky Mountains*, Volume II. London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1855, p. 167.

that the fissure where the arrows were shot was located on the east side of the lake. Ross's report of pictographs associated with the arrow cave is interesting. Eileen Delehanty Pearkes reported the presence of pictographs near the outlet of Cayuse Creek. Cayuse Creek is approximately two miles below today's Deer Park on the east side of Lower Arrow Lake. Pearkes reported that the pictographs are "underwater except for a few weeks each spring." The Cayuse Creek pictographs are exposed in the spring because Hugh Keenleyside Dam is letting water flow through it to dams below at that time of year. In the fall when the level of the lake would naturally be lower, the dam is impounding water.⁴

In her map showing Lower Arrow Lake, Pearkes showed those pictographs at the outlet of Cayuse Creek. On the same map she located "Arrow Rock" about two miles below Cayuse Creek, about half way to the mouth of Tulip Creek. She notes that her maps were based on maps compiled by Randy Bouchard and Dorothy Kennedy for a report they completed in 2000.⁵

1826, Aemilius Simpson

Aemilius Simpson was a cousin by marriage of prominent Hudson's Bay Company official, George Simpson. A naval officer, he joined the Hudsons' Bay Company as a maritime officer in 1826.⁶ In that year Simpson traveled from York Factory on the west shore of Hudson's

⁴Eileen Delehanty Pearkes. Personal communication. Pearkes to Hart, email, November 24, 2018.

⁵Pearkes, Eileen Delehanty. *The Geography of Memory: Recovering Stories of a Landscape's First People*. Nelson, B. C.: Kutenai House Press, 2002, p. 38.

Bouchard, Randall T. And Dorothy I. D. Kennedy. *First Nations' Ethnography and Ethnohistory in British Columbia's Lower Kootenay/Columbia Hydropower Region*. Prepared for the Columbia Power Corporation; Castlegar, British Columbia, August, 2000; pp 103-105..

⁶Watson, Bruce McIntyre. *Lives Lived West of the Divide: A Biographical Dictionary of Fur Traders Working West of the Rockies, 1793-1858*, Volume 3. Kelowna, British Columbia: Centre for Social, Spatial, and Economic Justice, University of British Columbia, 2010, p. 868.

Bay, with an HBC brigade to Vancouver. On October 19, he was traveling down the lakes toward Fort Colvile. He reported:

The Communication between the Lakes is a continuation of River for about 6 Leagues on entering the Arrow Lake it runs to the SW and gradually turns to the SE & on passing the Arrow Rock, a remarkable cliff on the left—it turns to the ESE and SE. The Arrow Rock so named on account of a round Hole in its face full of arrows, said to have been fired at it by Indians when practicing the Bow & Arrow before a war excursion.⁷

1830, Duncan Finlayson (and Ranald MacDonald?)

Duncan Finlayson joined the Hudson's Bay Company in 1815. He was posted in the Columbia region in 1831.⁸ Kate Johnson published a history of Nakusp in 1951. In that book she reported that in "about" 1830 a Hudson's Bay Company party led by Finlayson "camped on the shores of the Arrow Lake, below a huge cliff." Referring to a document as yet unidentified, Johnson continued her account of the Finlayson trip.

About one hundred feet above up the face of the cliff were noticed hundreds of Arrows which had been shot into three large cavities in the rock. Finlayson fired many shots and brought down many of the arrows. The belief is that Indians had fought a big battle at that point years before and the victors having no immediate use for the shafts, shot them into the rocks. Early explorers seeing the arrows apparently found a name for the lakes.⁹

Johnson's account may have been taken from the account written out by Ranald

⁷Simpson, Aemilius. "Journal of a Voyage Across the Continent of North America in 1825," Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Provincial Archives of Manitoba, B.223/a/3, folios 1-50.

⁸Watson, Bruce McIntyre. *Lives Lived West of the Divide: A Biographical Dictionary of Fur Traders Working West of the Rockies, 1793-1858*, Volume 1. Kelowna, British Columbia: Centre for Social, Spatial, and Economic Justice, University of British Columbia, 2010, pp. 376-377.

⁹Johnson, Kate. *Pioneer Days of Nakusp and the Arrow Lakes*. Nakusp, B. C.: 1951, pp. 1-2. Johnson also quotes de Smet's 1848 publication which mentions Arrow Rock and also describes the report of a river boat captain, Robert Sanderson, who said knew the place well.

MacDonald. If so, MacDonald was probably a boy when he accompanied Finlayson through the Arrow Lakes. Ranald MacDonald was the son of Chief Trader Archibald MacDonald and a daughter of a Chinook chief. Ranald MacDonald is famous today for his early visit to Japan. Growing up in the Northwest in the 1830s and 1840s, MacDonald later recalled Arrow Rock, as he saw it traveling up the Arrow Lakes.

I recollect the boats were right under a high & perpendicular wall of rock & the arrows embedded in holes or hollows some 30 or 40 feet above us in the boat, if I recollect right there were two or three such holes. Mr. Finlayson (Duncan) asked me in chinook if I wanted the arrows. I told or I answered yes, he then took up his short gun (a double barrel) & fired bringing a number of them down broken, they were picked up by the men and given to me but before doing so I remember they were examined by them being old voyageurs and men of experience on Indian arrows, took great interest to endeavor to know the question by what tribe or nation were those arrows made...but experts as they were they had to give it up, they could not solve it satisfactorily. I recollect there was something said of a large war party of the Lake Indians, or Upper Columbia River Indians invading the Kootenays or Mountaneurs, had defeated the Mountaneurs & had captured a large quantity arrows and having no further need of them expended them in these holes to commemorate the accation [sic] I am sure the spot is at the lower lake.

1842, A. C. Anderson

Alexander Caufield Anderson (1814-1884) was a veteran, long-term employee of the Hudson's Bay Company. He was transferred to the Columbia Department in 1832 and had extensive travel throughout the region. One of his sons was James Robert Anderson (ca. 1842-?).¹⁰

¹⁰Watson, Bruce McIntyre. *Lives Lived West of the Divide: A Biographical Dictionary of Fur Traders Working West of the Rockies, 1793-1858*. Volume 1. Center for Social, Spatial, and Economic Justice; University of British Columbia. Kelowna: 2010, pp. 152-153.

In 1842 Anderson sketched a map of the area between Fort Colville and Jasper's House. Later, in 1866, he recopied the map and it was later deposited in the Provincial Archives of British Columbia.¹¹ A. C. Anderson's son, J. R. Anderson, wrote about Arrow Rock, relying on the journal of his father.

The Arrow Lakes . . . are so named on account of the custom that prevailed among the natives of shooting arrows into a certain rock, which juts out into the lake . . . my Father the late A. C. Anderson in his journal of a journey through the Lakes in the Forties [1840s] mentions the fact that on arriving at the rock in question the Indian canoe men all shot arrow at the rock, any of which stuck in the moss, which I believe was considered to be lucky...¹²

1840s, Pierre-Jean de Smet

Father Pierre-Jean de Smet played an important role in the history of the Sinixt people in the 1840s. He also described Arrow Rock as he recalled coming south down the lakes.

The second lake is about six miles distant from the first. It is of about the same length, but less wide. We passed under a perpendicular rock, where we beheld an innumerable number of arrows sticking out of the fissures. The Indians, when they ascend the lake, have a custom of lodging each an arrow into these crevices. The origin and cause of the custom is unknown to me. This is the reason why the first voyageurs called these lakes the Arrow Lakes.¹³

¹¹Anderson, A. C. "Sketch of the Upper Columbia, Colville to Jasper's House 1842 and other years," recopied from old maps in 1866. Provincial Archives of British Columbia, Map Division, CM B246/1167.

¹²Bouchard, Randall T. And Dorothy I. D. Kennedy. *First Nations' Ethnography and Ethnohistory in British Columbia's Lower Kootenay/Columbia Hydropower Region*. Prepared for the Columbia Power Corporation; Castlegar, British Columbia, August 2000, p. 105, who note that on the map Arrow Rock is located near today's Deer Park.

¹³Chittenden, Hiram Martin and Alfred Talbot Richardson. *Life, Letters and Travels of Father Pierre-Jean De Smet, S. J., 1801-1873*. New York: Francis P. Harper, 1905, volume II, p. 549.

De Smet, Pierre-Jean. *Oregon Missions and Travels over the Rocky Mountains in 1845-46*. Fairfield, Washington: Ye Galleon Press, 1978 (first published New York 1847), pp. 216-217.

1859, Arrowsmith

In 1859 John Arrowsmith created a map compiled from sources held by the Hudson's Bay Company. He showed Arrow Rock on the east side near the south end of Lower Arrow Lake. He likely based his location on a careful reading of Alexander Ross (realizing Ross meant east when he said west).¹⁴

1935, Elmendorf

Anthropologist William W. Elmendorf conducted fieldwork in Wellpinit with Nancy Wynecoop in September, 1935. In his fieldnotes from that interview, he referred to a place name relating to a "place where a man had to shoot an arrow into a hole in a high cliff wall over a rock slide—called ... 'shooting place'—camping ground of Lakes 5 or 6 miles above Colville."¹⁵

1940s, Kate Johnson and Robert Sanderson

In her 1951 history of Nakusp, Kate Johnson reported that she had interviewed a river boat captain named Robert Sanderson, who said the cave was seven miles above the outlet of Lower Arrow Lake on the east side of the lake. Johnson also produced a photograph of what appear to be pictographs which she said were located "about four miles below Deer Park."¹⁶

Another riverboat captain, identified only as Captain Fraser said that in the early days of

¹⁴Arrowsmith, John. "Map of the Provinces of British Columbia, and Vancouver Island; With Portions of the United States & Hudson's Bay Territories." Compiled from Original Documents. London; June 1, 1859. Hudson's Bay Company Archives G. 3/95.

¹⁵Elmendorf, William W. September, 1935 fieldnotes, Notebook 1, page 79. Bancroft Library, BANC MSS, 2001/45 cp, Negative number 2921.

There is at least one reference to neighboring Kootenay people having a location for shooting arrows at a natural rock configuration.

¹⁶Johnson, Kate. *Pioneer Days of Nakusp and the Arrow Lakes*. Nakusp, B. C.: 1951, pp. 2 and 114.

steamboating on the Arrow Lakes, he had seen a rock at Dog Creek Bluff, seventeen miles from Robson & 1 mile above Deer Park. He said he had

... his ship right up to the said steep rocky bluff—(quite a landmark in navigation) and had seen broken arrows then sticking in the clefts of the rock, some over a foot long, & had knocked them out with a pike, from the ship.

A note with this report says that some of the arrows may be in the Provincial Museum in Victoria.¹⁷

Robert Sanderson, another steamboat captain cited by Kate Johnson, gave an account to the *Kootenay Star* in 1890, saying that the Arrow Rocks:

...are located seven miles above the outlet of the lower lake about 15 miles north of Sproat on the easterly side of the lake. He has seen them many times and has run his steamer close to them. They are bold and precipitous, 90 to 100 feet high, rising abruptly out of the water and the arrows or “peace pictures” are about 30 feet above high water. He thinks not many of the arrows are remaining because passing boatmen have knocked them out with poles and guns as curiosities. There are also rude pictures, painted on the rocks with red paint on a background of white. Capt. Sanderson calls them “peace” or “peace pictures,” which is the nearest interpretation he can give to the Indian meaning.¹⁸

In an interview in the 1970s H. W. Herridge said that Sanderson had told a story of a rock called “Talking Rock” which was located between Nakusp and Halcyon Hot Springs. According to Herridge, Sanderson said there had been a war between the Arrow Lakes people and the Kootenay and at the end of the conflict the two tribes agreed to a peace and shot all their arrows

¹⁷Anon. “Memo re Arrow Lake,” *Robert Watt, Appellant and E. Liebelt and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Respondents*, Appeal Book V of VI, Bates Number 949.

¹⁸Bouchard, Randall T. And Dorothy I. D. Kennedy. *First Nations' Ethnography and Ethnohistory in British Columbia's Lower Kootenay/Columbia Hydropower Region*. Prepared for the Columbia Power Corporation; Castlegar, British Columbia, August 2000, p. 105.

into this rock (which later sluffed off into the river).¹⁹

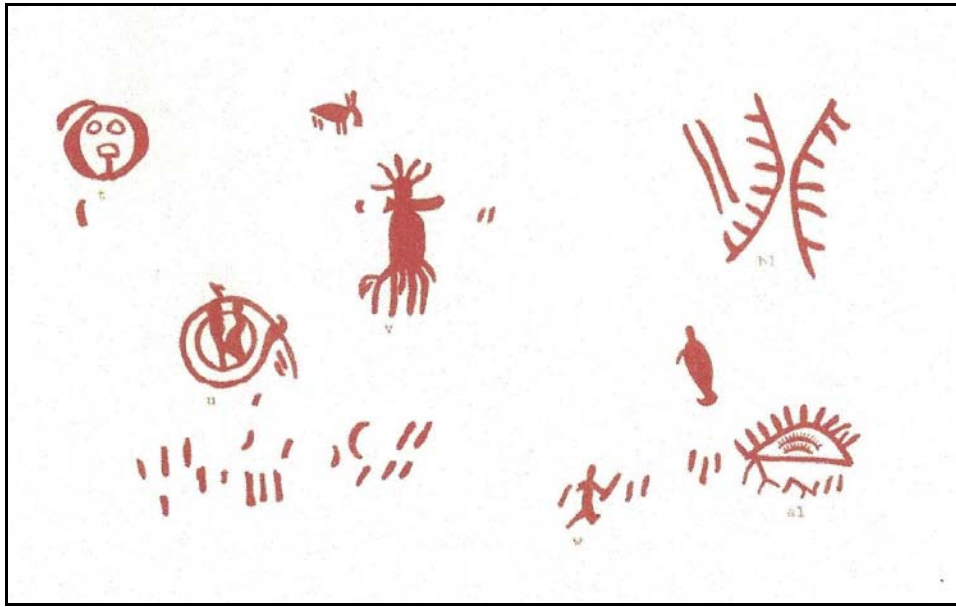
Cayuse Creek Pictographs

The pictographs that were located along the shore of Lower Arrow Lake were “the largest group of pictographs on the Arrow Lakes.” Hydroelectric and flood-control dams on the Columbia below the lakes caused the pictographs to be inundated. John Corner spent eight years documenting pictographs in British Columbia’s interior and published his findings. He reported that at the location “six separate panels are scattered along the cliff.”²⁰ Eileen Delehanty Pearkes reports that the pictographs are now under water for most of the year as a result of the impoundment of water behind Hugh Keenleyside Dam (known as High Arrow Dam around the time Corner did his work).²¹

¹⁹Herridge, H. W. Interview conducted by Milton Parent. Nakusp and District Museum; Nakusp, British Columbia; ca. 1970s, p. 2.

²⁰Corner, John. *Pictographs in the Interior of British Columbia*. John Corner: Vernon, British Columbia; 1968, pp. 81-85.

²¹Pearkes, Eileen Delehanty. “Things Wished for or Desired—understanding pictographs,” published in *North Columbia Monthly*, Autumn, 2009 (typescript copy provided by the author).



Cayuse Creek Pictographs located near Arrow Rock. Detail from Panel d4. Corner, John. *Pictographs in the Interior of British Columbia*. John Corner: Vernon, British Columbia; 1968, p. 84.

Conclusions

Alexander Ross noted pictographs associated with Arrow Rock, but did not say how far apart they were. He identified the rock as being on the west side of the lake, which is probably incorrect.

Aemilius Simpson's account suggests the rock is on the east side of the lake

The Finlayson/MacDonald accounts suggest the fissures were 100 feet, or 30 to 40 feet up the side of the cliff.

In the publication cited here, de Smet did not provide information on the location of the rock.

The information from riverboat captains in the 20th century (likely 1940s) locates the rock as being on the east side of the lake, associated with pictographs and at a level that could be

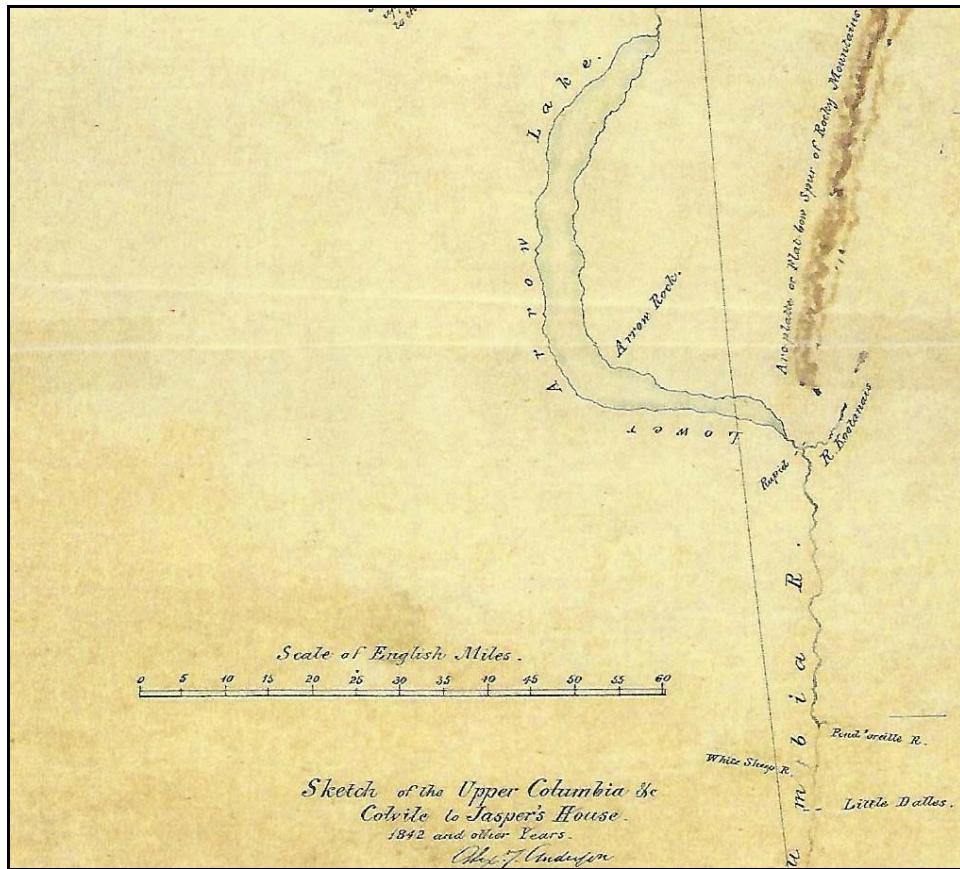
reached with a pike from the boat. These accounts suggest a location above Deer Park.

The map provided by Pearkes and based on a publication from Bouchard and Kennedy suggests the rock is below Deer Park near the pictographs on Cayuse Creek.

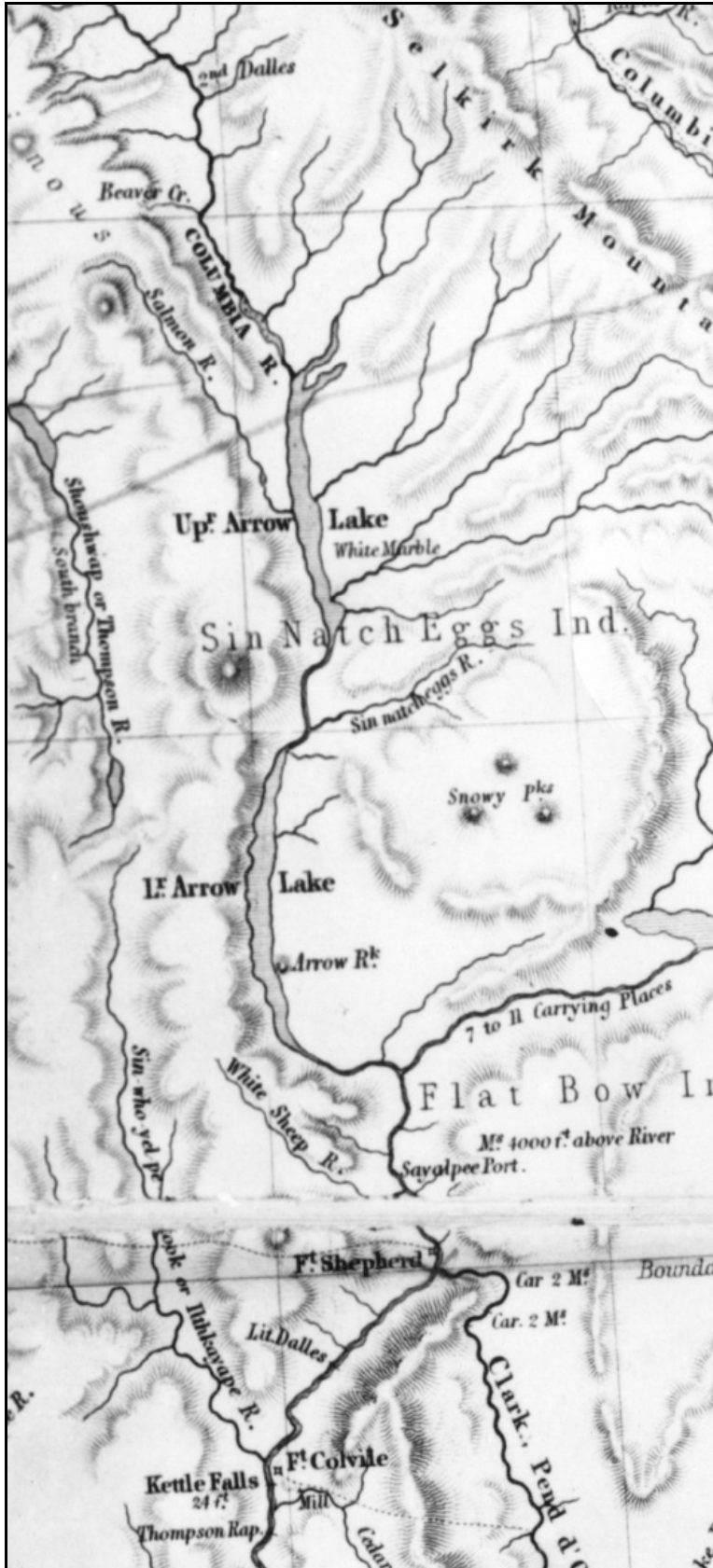
Anthropologist William W. Elmendorf , in field notes on the Lakes Indians, said there was a “place where a man had to shoot an arrow into a hole in a high cliff wall over a rock slide –called ...‘shooting place’–camping round of Lakes 5 or 6 miles above Colville.”²²

The information suggests that Arrow Rock (likely three fissures) is located on the east side of the lake in an area between four miles south of Deer Park and two miles north of Deer Park. Some sources suggest the pictographs are located at the outlet of Cayuse Creek, but are submerged most of the year. The original elevation of Arrow Lakes was 1,395 feet. Keenlyside Dam impounded water in the lake in 1968 and raised the level of the lake about 40 feet. However, the level of the lake no longer is subject to regular seasonal fluctuations and is now controlled by the dam. It is likely that the fissures in Arrow Rock are submerged for at least part of the year based on the 20th century reports prior to the construction of the dam. Examination of the area in question may have to be done by boat. Historic maps may identify the location of Dog Creek Bluff.

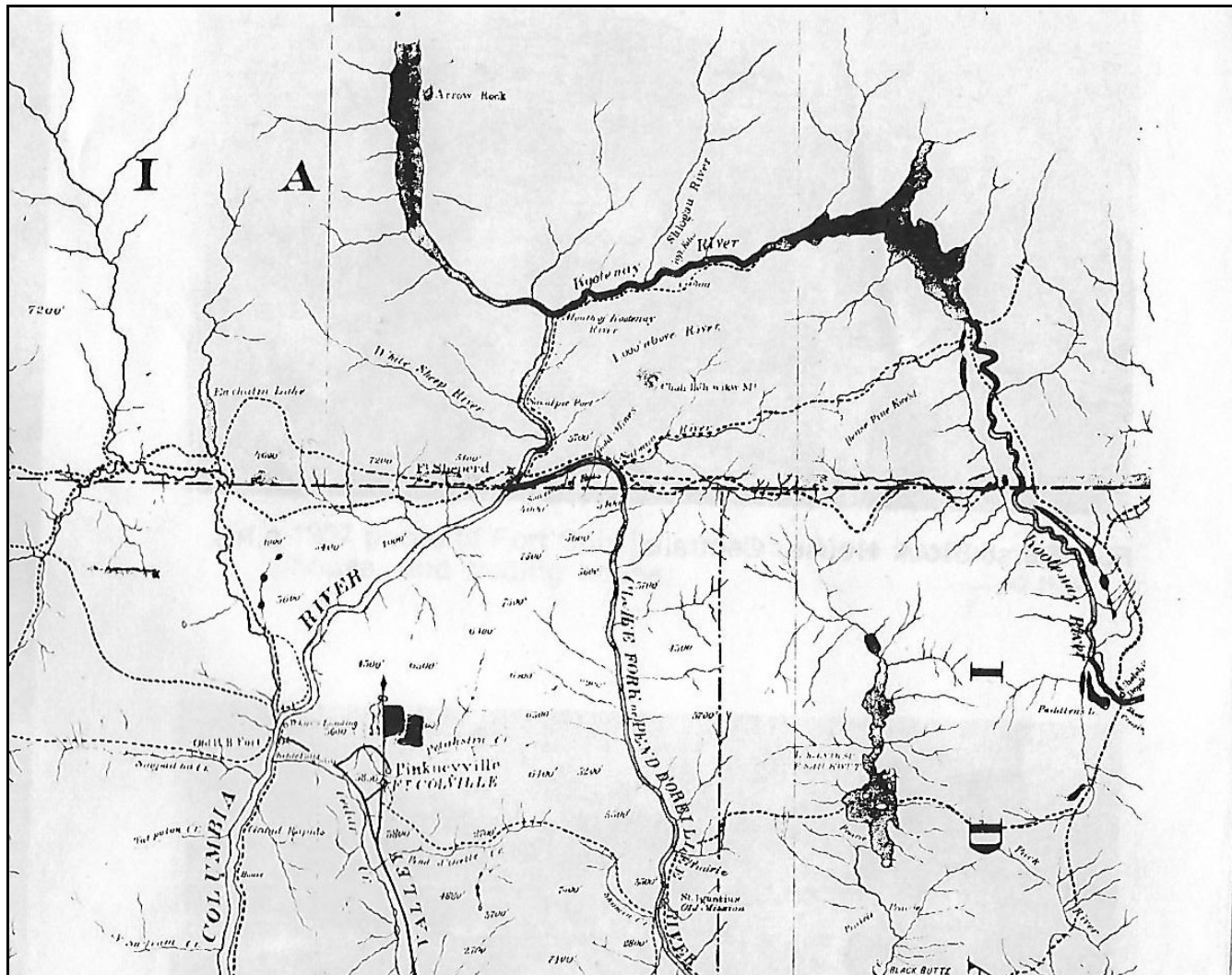
²²Elmendorf, William. Fieldnotes found in william W. Elmendorf Papers. Bancroft Library, BANC MSS, 2001/45 cp (Negative Number 2921), September, 1935, Nobebook 1, p. 79.



Anderson, A. C. "Sketch of the Upper Columbia, Colville to Jasper's House 1842 and other years," recopied from old maps in 1866. Provincial Archives of British Columbia, Map Division, CM B246/1167. Arrow Rock located as of 1842.



Arrowsmith, 1859, Detail.



“Washington Territory,” 1873; Engineer Office, Mil. Div. of the Pacific, Corps of Engineers; Reproduced in *Early Washington Atlas*, Binford & Mort: Portland, Oregon; 1981, n.p. Arrow Rock is shown, also Fort Colville, “Old H. B. [Hudson’s Bay Company] Fort,” and Ft. Sheperd [Shepherd].

Fauquier to Castlegar

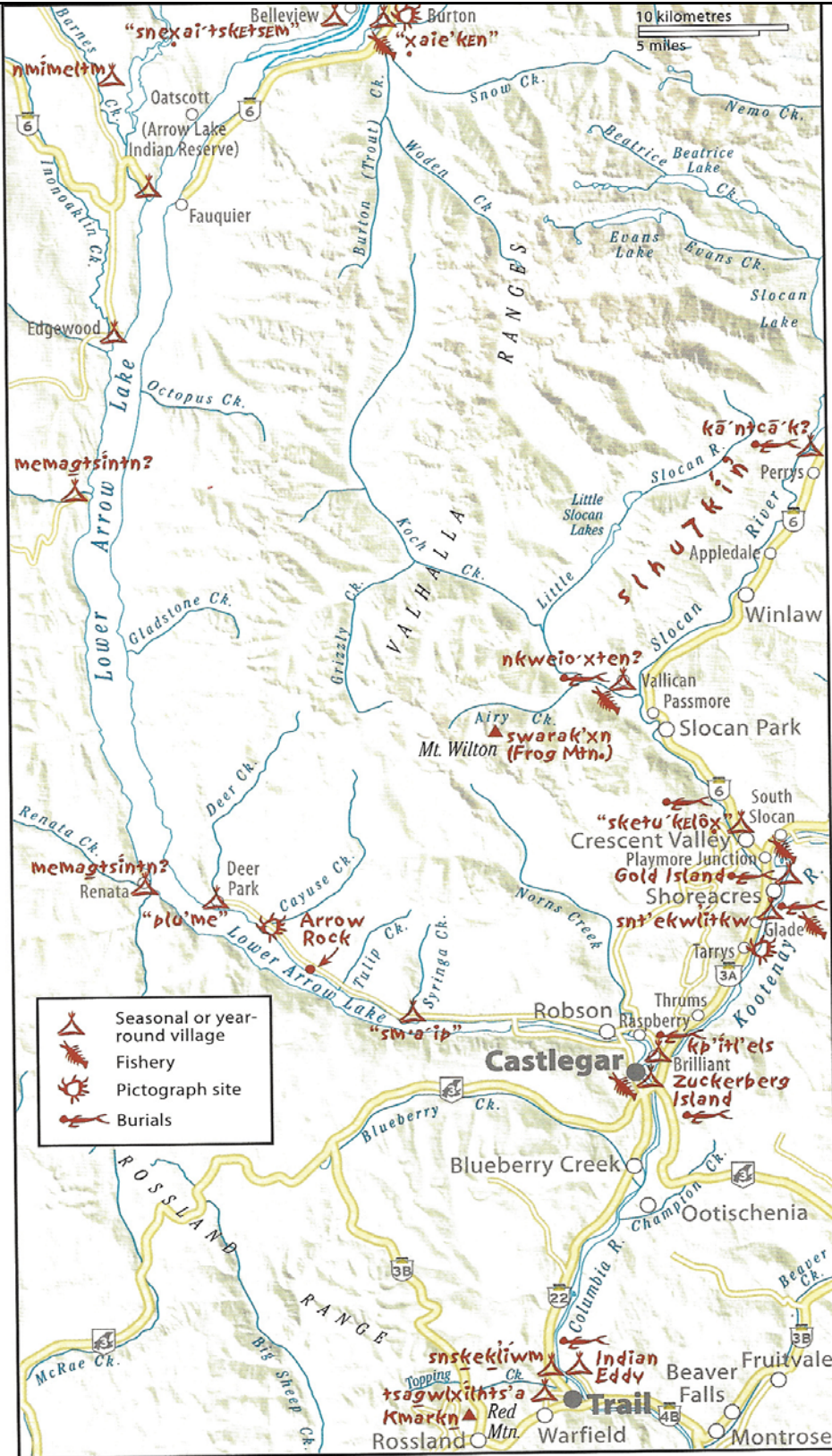
memagtsintn?: “log used for crossing.” A centre for hunting mountain goat, this village was somewhere on the Lower Arrow Lake.

“plu’me”: Village important for deer hunting; fishing.

Arrow Rock: Arrows in rock crevices noted by several early explorers/travellers.

“sm.a’ip”: “large log leaning against a tree.” This was the start of Lower Arrow Lake prior to dams.

kp’itl’els: Salmon fishing, trading. The Christian family lived here seasonally well into the 20th century.



Based on maps compiled by Randy Bouchard and Dorothy Kennedy in 2000 for the Columbia Power Corp.