

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE PAUL KANE PRINTS

WINTER TRAVELLING IN DOG SLEDS

Wedding journey from Edmonton to Fort Pitt. Paul Kane accompanied the party and wrote, "We had three carioles and six sledges, with four dogs to each, forming when on route a long and picturesque cavalcade: all the dogs gaudily decorated with saddle-cloths of various colours, fringed and embroidered in the most fantastic manner, with innumerable small bells and feathers, producing altogether a pleasing and enlivening effect."

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT

This settlement was the chief provision depot of the Hudson's Bay Company. Fort Garry, one of the most important establishments of the Company, was erected on the forks of the Red River and the Assiniboine. On the opposite side of the river can be seen the Roman Catholic Church. Lord Selkirk first attempted to form a settlement here in 1811, but it was unsuccessful. A few years later several Scottish families, including some from the Orkney Islands emigrated under the auspices of the Hudson's Bay Company and in 1846 numbered about 3,000.

TWO ASSINIBOINE INDIANS RUNNING A BUFFALO

Paul Kane recorded that, "One day, whilst wandering some distance to the south of the fort, I saw two Assiniboine Indians hunting buffaloes. One was armed with a spear, formed of an ashpole about ten feet long, ornamented with tufts of hair, and having an iron head, which is procured from the trading posts; the other with a bow formed of ash, with the sinews of a buffalo gummed to the back of it."

FORT EDMONTON

At Fort Edmonton in 1846 were a chief factor and a clerk with forty or fifty men with their wives and children. The employment of the men was chiefly building boats, cutting fire-wood and hunting in order to feed the residents. The women, who were mostly Indian or half-breeds, were employed in making moccasins and clothing for the men. The Indians around the fort were principally Crees and Assiniboines.

ENCAMPMENT ON LAKE HURON

This oil painting is based on sketches made on Kanes first trip to the Indian country. On his way to Manetouawning he put off on one of the Spider Islands to escape a heavy shower. He found a single Ojibwa lodge with a woman and two children. The men can be seen in the distance fishing. La Cloche Mountains are in the background.

INDIAN CAMP COLVILLE

The camp was situated about two miles below Fort Colville overlooking the Kettle Falls. "The lodges are formed of mats of rushes stretched on poles. A flooring is made of sticks, raised three or four feet from the ground, leaving the space beneath it entirely open, and forming a cool, airy, and shady place in which to hang their salmon to dry," so wrote Paul Kane after visiting the camp in 1847.