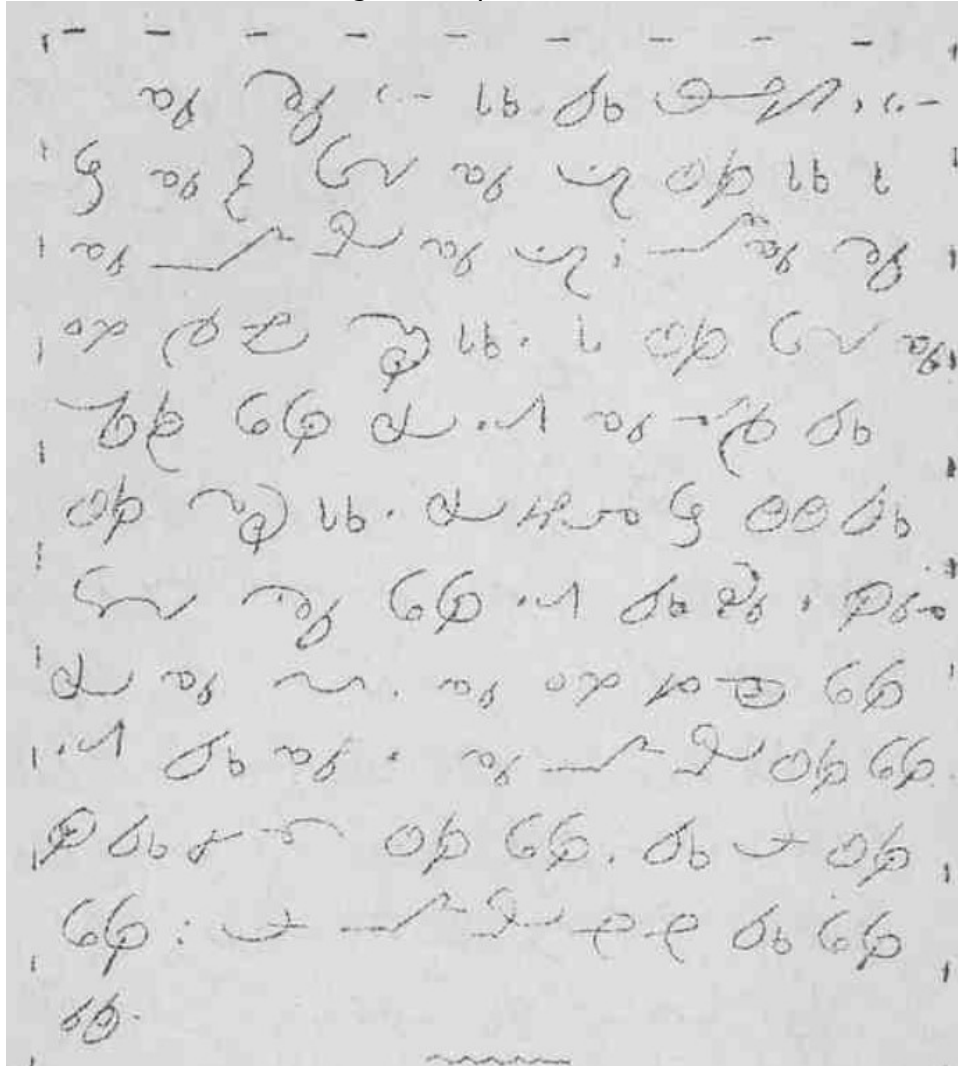


Snass Sessions: Michel's Soda Creek letter, 1895¹

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Some background information on Michel:



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- 1 “Soda Creek” is the northerly Secwépemc (“Shuswap”) Salish community of Xáts’ull First Nation. This letter is one of three unpublished ones written by Michel of Soda Creek that we so far have found.
- [SIC] in square brackets shows possible mistakes in the writing; other material [in square brackets] is inferred and added by me; interestingly, in 2 cases, it’s the word **wawa** ‘say, talk’.
 - Underlined material is in the Secwépemc (“Shuswap”) Salish language.
 - Anything < in angled brackets > is non-Chinuk Pipa, i.e. written as standard English in the original document.
 - I have put line breaks between every clause-containing sentence, and added punctuation, to help the reader. I’m experimenting with extra indentation to show the existence of subordinate clauses. (And to reflect the flow of the speaker’s thoughts.)

Iaka chako iht pipa kopa Soda Krik, iht
'There's come this one letter from Soda Creek, a certain'

man iaka nim Mishil iaka tsim ukuk pipa pi
'person called Michel wrote this letter and'

iaka drit tlus iaka tsim; drit iaka chako
'it's quite good, his writing; he's really'

aiak komtaks Chinuk pipa, pi ukuk Mishil iaka
'learned Chinook writing fast, and this Michel'

skukum mamuk pus hilp iaka tilikom kopa
'works hard to help his people on'

ukuk Chinuk pipa. Pus klaksta man wawa kopa
'this Chinook writing. If any person asks'

Mishil, "Chako mamuk hilp kopa naika," wik-kata
'Michel, "Come help me out," there's not a chance'

pus iaka lisi. Iaka aiak klatwa mamuk-
'that he'd be lazy (about that). He'll hurry to'

hilp kopa iaka. Iaka drit tlus ukuk mamuk.
'help them out. This work is very good.'

Wik kopa kaltash ukuk mamuk. Kopa S[ahali] T[aii] ukuk
'This work is not for nothing. This'

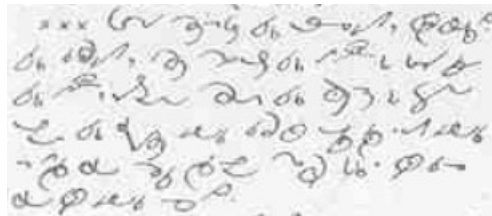
mamuk: ST drit tlus tomtom kopa mamuk
'work is for God: God is really happy about work'

kakwa.
'like this.'

– *Kamloops Wawa* #116bis[b]:[back wrapper 1]

Michel, from Soda Creek, who learned the Chinook writing a year ago by himself, has devoted much care to help his people. There are already 20 subscribers to the "Kamloops Wawa" at Soda Creek. Soda Creek is on the Cariboo road, about 175 miles north of Ashcroft station.

Kamloops Wawa #126 (March 1895), page [33]



Mishil shanti man kopa Soda Krik, Wiam Waspulah

‘Michel the prayer leader at Soda Creek, William Waspulawh’

kopa Kanu Krik, Chon Chakson kopa Lilwat, pi Pitir Kwal

‘at Canoe Creek, John Jackson at Lillooet, and Peter Kwal’

kopa Liluit, Fransis Shosif kopa Fawntin pi Moris

‘at Lillooet, Francis Joseph at Fountain and Morice’

Saksi kopa Pavilion klaska kanawi skukum hilp klaska

‘Saxy at Pavilion, they all powerfully help their’

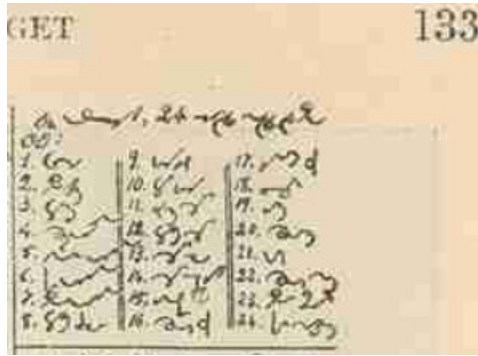
tilikom pus chako komtaks Chinuk pipa. Wik kata

‘people to learn Chinook writing. Not a chance’

pus wik klaska tolo.

‘of them not succeeding!’

– *Kamloops Wawa* #126:34



Kopa Soda Krik, <24> tilikom iskom Kamlups
 ‘At Soda Creek, 24 people take the *Kamloops*’

Wawa:
 ‘*Wawa:*’

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <1.> Mishil
‘Michel | <9.> Pitir Klap*
Peter Clapp* | <17.> Kristin Bob
Christine Bob’ |
| <2.> Lui Klain*
‘Louis Klein* | <10.> Mari Pitir
Marie Peter | <18.> Adolf
Adolphe’ |
| <3.> Martina
Martina | <11.> Kaptin Charli
Captain Charlie | <19.> Ailin*
Eileen’ |
| <4.> Shoni Silirs*
‘Johnny Sellers* | <12.> Marian Charli
Marianne Charlie | <20.> Shustin
Justine’ |
| <5.> Lisi Silirs
‘Lizzie Sellers | <13.> Charli Tis*
Charlie Tees* | <21.> Filip
Philip’ |
| <6.> Bili Silirs
‘Billy Sellers | <14.> Charli Dip Krik
Charlie Deep Creek | <22.> Shosip Shino*
Joseph Chenault’ |
| <7.> Lusi Silirs
‘Lucy Sellers | <15.> Iisabit
Elizabeth | <23.> Lusi Andri
Lucy Andrew’ |
| <8.> Marian Batist
‘Marianne Baptiste | <16.> Shosip Bob
Joseph Bob | <24.> Bili Chilkotin
Billy Chilcotin’ |

– *Kamloops Wawa* #132:133



Kopa Krismas ankati, <150> tilikom kopa

‘Last Christmas, 150 people from’

Kamlups, kopa Shushwap, kopa Nikola ItS, mash

‘Kamloops, from Shuswap, from the Nicola etc., sent’

Chinuk pipa, komposishons, kopa saia ilihi.

‘some Chinook writing, “compositions,” abroad.’

<50> tilikom tolo aias tlus pipa kakwa

‘Fifty people won beautiful documents like’

piktyur, kah iaka tsim klaska nim. Iakwa msaika

‘pictures, where their names are written. Here you folks’

nanich klaska nim kanawi tilikom tolo ukuk

‘can see their names, all the people who won those’

pipa:

‘documents:’

<1.> Alik Filip,
‘Alec Philip,

Kamlups
Kamloops

<26.> Wiam Waspulawh, Kanu Krik
William Waspulawh, Canoe Creek’

<2.> Bitsi Waii,
‘Betsy Y-ee,

Kamlups
Kamloops

<27.> Pit Nhinaskrit, Alkalai Lik
Pete Nhinaskrit, Alkali Lake’

<3.> Fransis Basil,
‘Francis Basil,

Kamlups
Kamloops

<28.> Mus Dikson, Lik Lahash
Moose Dixon, Lake Lahache’

<4.> Klarin Falarido,

Kamlups

<29.> Imil, Knim Lik

'Clarina Falardeau, Kamloops

Emile,

Canim Lake'

<5.> **Andri Maklawd, Kamlups**
'Andrew MacLeod, Kamloops

<30.> **Mishil,**
Michel,

Soda Krik
Soda Creek'

– *KW#159:183*

Soda Krik, < 8 > Disimbir < 1895 >

‘Soda Creek, 8 December 1895’

Naika mash ukuk tanas-pipa kopa maika, naika papa Pir Lshyun kopa Kamlups.

‘I’m sending this note to you, my father Père Le Jeune at Kamloops.’

Naika mash ukuk pipa kanamokst iht tala,

‘I’m sending this letter along with one dollar,’

pus piii ukuk *Kamlups Wawa* pipa.

‘to pay for that *Kamloops Wawa* paper.’

Pi alta iht wiks,

‘And a week ago’

naika kilapai kopa stik.

‘I got back from the bush.’

Alta mokst mun,

‘Two months ago,’

naika mash Soda Krik.

‘I left Soda Creek.’

Pi pus naika kilapai kopa Soda Krik,

‘And when I got back to Soda Creek,’

pi [SIC] naika nanich kopa Kamlups Wawa pipa

‘and I saw in the *Kamloops Wawa* paper’

pus maika tiki

‘apparently you wanted’

pus tilikom klaska aiak piii klaska pipa,

‘for the people to send their papers right back,’

pi alta naika mash ukuk pipa kanamokst iht tala,

‘and (so) now I’m sending this letter with a dollar,’

pus piii naika pipa.

‘to pay for my paper.’

Pi naika tanas-sik, ukuk-son;

‘And I’m sickish, today;’

Pi kanawi tilikom klaska tlus.

‘But everyone’s all right.’

Kopit klaska tlap-tanas-kol-sik.

‘They’ve just caught a bit of the cold.’

Pi kakwa naika;

‘And me too;’

Ukuk-son, naika tlap-tanas-sik.

‘Today, I’ve gotten a bit sick.’

Pi klunas alki [Ø] mash naika, ukuk sik,

‘But I reckon it’ll leave me, this bug,’

Pi naika chako-tlus wiht.

‘And I’ll get well again.’

Pi ankati maika chako kopa Shugir Kin,

‘And a while ago you came to Sugarcane,’

Pi maika wawa kopa naika

‘And you said to me’

pus nsaika mash ukuk *Kamlups Wawa* pipa wiht kopa *Kamlups*.

‘we should send these *Kamloops Wawa* papers back to *Kamloops*.’

Maika tiki

‘You wanted’

pus nsaika mash [Ø] kopa Oktobir mun,

‘for us to send them in October,’

Pi naika ilo mitlait kopa Soda Krik, kopa Oktobir mun;

‘But I wasn’t at Soda Creek, in October;’

Kakwa, naika ilo mash ukuk pipa.

‘So I didn’t send those papers.’

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Pi klunas maika ilo drit komtaks

‘And I reckon you won’t quite be able to understand’

ikta iaka siisim, ukuk pipa,

‘what it’s telling, this letter,’

Pi latit ayu-sik, ukuk son;

‘but (I) have a headache, today;’

Kakwa, klunas ilo drit, iaka siisim, ukuk pipa.

‘So, maybe it’s not quite right, the news in it, this letter.’

Pi alta, tlus,

‘But now, all right,’

pus maika tlap ukuk pipa,

‘when you receive this letter’

tlus aiak maika mamuk-kilapai tanas-pipa kopa naika,

‘you should return a note to me right away,’

pus mamuk-komtaks kopa naika.

‘to let me know.’

Kopit kakwa naika siisim kopa maika.

‘That’s as much as I’m telling you.’

Hoi maa putoh Pir Lshyun, hinchichachwa l-Mishel n-Soda Krik, shanti-man.

‘Well all right, goodbye Père Le Jeune, it’s me, that Michel in Soda Creek, the prayer leader.’

Pi wiht naika tanas[-wawa] kopa maika:

‘And I’ll say a bit more to you:’

Alta kopa Soda Krik, ilo ayu sno;

‘Now at Soda Creek, there’s not much snow;’

Kopit tanas sno mitlait, pi tanas ais.

‘There’s just a little snow, and a bit of ice.’

Kopa ukuk kol-ilihi, ilo ayu kol kopa iakwa.

‘During this winter, there hasn’t been much cold around here.’

Klunas ukuk sno kopit < 4 > inchis.

‘This snow might be just 4 inches.’

Kopit kakwa alta naika [wawa].

‘That’s as much as I’m [saying] now.’

Klahawiam, Pir Lshyun.

‘Goodbye, Père Le Jeune.’