

# Roped

EARLY  
MOUNTAINEERS

# Together:

THEIR FIRST NATION  
COMPANIONS

## Goddard & Kese

**T**HE NAMES AND FACES of our early explorers and mountaineers look out at us from books. They are embedded in our mythology. But what about the First Nations men – and sometimes women – who paddled their canoes, pointed the way to mountain passes, led the pack horses? Most of them remain faceless and unnamed. • This poster focuses on two mountain climbers, Samuel E S Allen and Malcolm Goddard. What is unusual about their respective stories is that both men chose to travel with a single Native companion. Yule Carryer played an important role in Allen's explorations of the Rockies during the summer of 1894. Similarly Kese provided the canoe and paddle power for Goddard's circumnavigation of Chilko Lake in 1912. Both shared in the struggle and reward of 'peak bagging.'

## Allen & Carryer

**W**hat is the use of spending one's life cooped up in a noisy gas-laden city?"

BELOW Malcolm Goddard (r) on Mt Victoria



**O**n June 28th we loaded our meagre outfit into a crazy dug-out..."

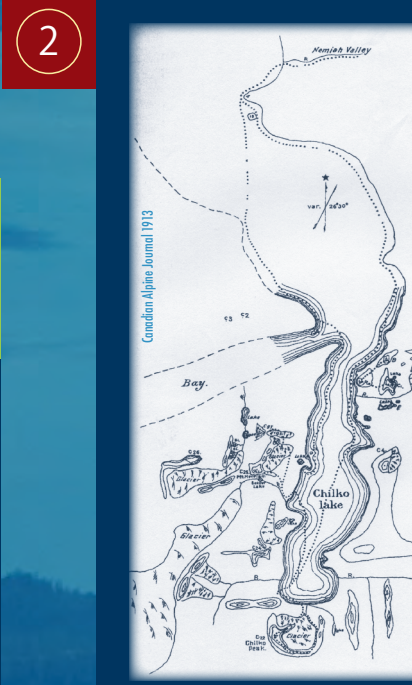
LEFT Kese at Chilko Lake

**A**t Norman Lee's I obtained a pack outfit and a Siwash companion and soon left all roads, journeying up the Chilko River a hundred miles to the lake."

ABOVE Norman Lee's in the Chilko

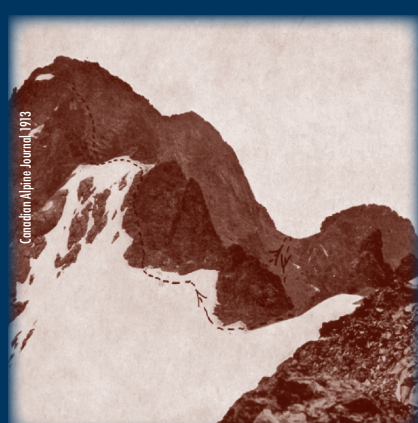


Maps of Chilko Lake area, by Goddard and Google



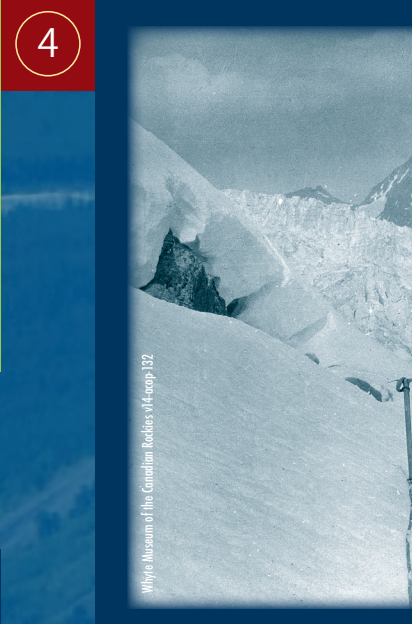
**H**ere the fun began and I put Kese to the first test at the lower end of an 80 foot rope."

below LEFT What is now Mt Goddard, showing route



**T**his is a wonderful spot with the mountains towering on all sides and the silence unbroken save by the cascade from the Chilko Glacier and the occasional weird cry of a loon – 230 miles from a telephone!"

above RIGHT Kese in their camp at the south end of Chilko Lake



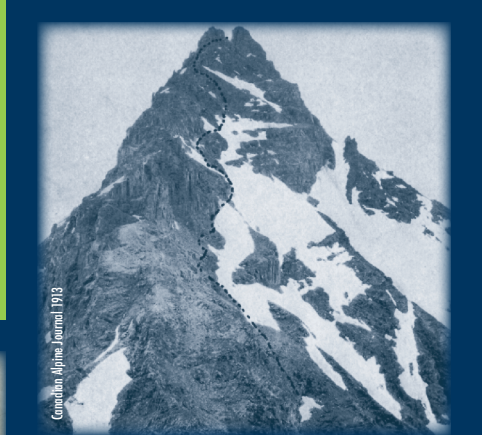
**K**ese made a cairn in which rests a brass Alpine Club tube."

**NOTE** When the present climbed Mt. Chilko the tube could not be found. An earlier group did locate it and the message read: "July 2, 1912. First ascent of Mt. Chilko by Malcolm Goddard, San Francisco, accompanied by Kese, a Nemah Valley Siwash Indian. Ascent by arête bet. glaciers on East. 8 hours from lake."

LEFT Kese at the north icefall on Mt. Chilko

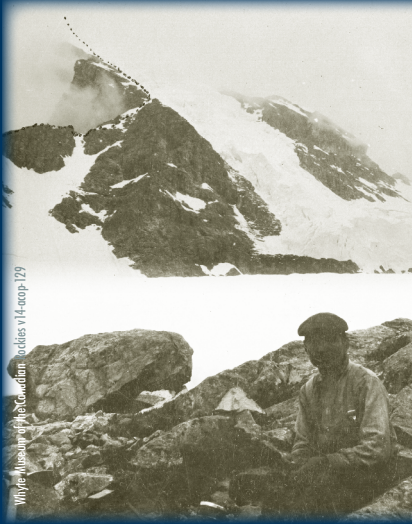
**W**e took a direct route ... ascending the maze of crevasses and seracs to the central arête which we ascended to the summit."

BELOW Kese at the snow arête, Chilko Peak



**W**e... gained the col from which began the best five hours of rock work I have ever had." (A snowstorm forced them to turn back.)

ABOVE Route of first attempt on Mt. Merriam



**C**onsiderable cutting was necessary after scraping off 6 inches of snow ready to avalanche.... This did not appeal at all to Kese but he came without any fuss and apparently enjoyed gaining the summit."

LEFT East Face of Mt. Merriam with Kese in the foreground

### GODDARD'S THOUGHTS ON THEIR TRIP TOGETHER:

"I HAD MISGIVINGS when I decided to go on a climbing expedition with one Indian, but in addition to his skill in packing and his wonderful handling of a canoe, he soon handled his ice axe like a veteran... he always changed to moccasins upon reaching the woods. With these on, he led me a merry pace through the woods."



**O**ur duffel was ferried in a very narrow dug-out which leaked like a sieve... When a Siwash tells you *too much strong water*, it's best to look out."

LEFT Ferrying gear across the Taseko River

### Exploring the Rockies

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Samuel Allen and members of the so-called Yale Lake Louise Club at Glacier House, August 1893. Allen stands second from the left.



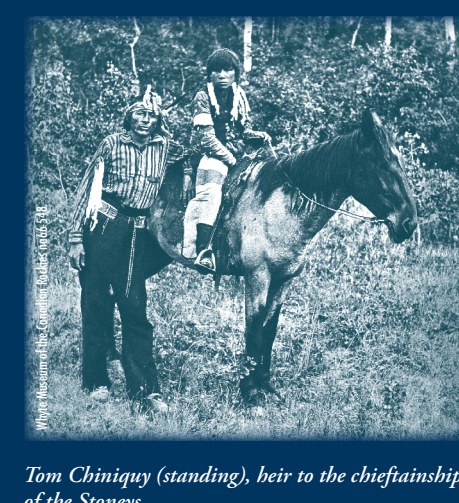
Samuel Allen, far left, at a camp in the Paradise Valley near Lake Louise, August 1894



Photo of Samuel Allen (or possibly Yule Carryer) near Opabin Pass



Joshua and William Twin (right) at Morley, near Calgary 1905



Tom Chiniquy (standing), heir to the chieftainship of the Stoney

**S**amuel Allen explored the mountains near Lake Louise, notably during the summer of 1894. A companion wrote: "He utilized every opportunity to learn words from the Stoney Indians of this region and from these words he developed some of the names that we gave to peaks..." (*Hungabee: chieftain; Wiwaxy: windy*) Allen often sat around the campfire listening to their guides "until full darkness." 1

**NONE OF ALLEN'S YALE COMPANIONS** joined him on August 11, 1894 when he trekked – without benefit of trails – from Paradise Valley to Opabin Pass and beyond. In *Mountain Chronicles* Jon Whyte calls this return trip "the single greatest day of Canadian Rockies exploration." Is it possible that Carryer accompanied him? 2

**ALLEN WROTE:** "I MADE ARRANGEMENTS with Yule Carryer, an Indian of considerable education to accompany me." And describing their trip to Abbot Pass: "Carryer had found easier work on the right side and was awaiting me on the summit.... While I was taking photographs and bearings, Carryer was building a cairn... we descended by the side up which Carryer had come." 3

**ALLEN DESCRIBED A 6 DAY, 150 MILE** circuit with Carryer over the Vermilion and Simpson passes to Mt Assiniboine. "His keen knowledge of the woods and obliging and affable disposition made him at all times both a useful and pleasant companion." They made "delicious ptarmigan stew" and debated how best to cook a porcupine. Carryer was so impressed by Mt Assiniboine he called it "the most awful mountain he had ever seen." 4

**WILLIAM TWIN** (also known as the 'Talking Indian') was employed by the Yale Lake Louise group. On one occasion when they failed to spot goats he famously said, "*You no see goat, you no got eyes.*" Jon Whyte wrote in his book *Indians in the Rockies*, 1985: "William Twin... became the exemplar of the Stoney as mountain guide." 5

**TOM CHINIQUY** (also known as 'Stoical Tom Chiniky') was hired by the Yale group for trips near Lake Louise, and took part in an epic rescue on Mt Lefroy: "Generally an Indian will not go on ice, yet on that night they walked bridges with perfect coolness even after one gave away.... The labour of carrying the injured man over the glacier and moraine was enormous, yet Chiniky never murmured though his moccasins were in rags...." 6

### A LAST WORD FOR ALLEN

**SAMUEL ALLEN STUDIED PHILOLOGY** and Sanskrit while at Yale, so his interest in First Nations languages came naturally. But his fireside chats with their hired guides, and his ability to listen, suggest an attitude very different from the Victorian norm. His writings and travels with Yule Carryer certainly bear this out.

*"It is to them (the First Nations) we owe the beautiful trails that follow the rivers or cross the divides of the Rockies..."*

– Samuel E S Allen, *Mountaineering in the Canadian Rockies*

Malcolm Goddard text credits  
All Goddard quotes are from the Canadian Alpine Journal of 1913

Samuel Allen text credits  
1 Canadian Alpine Journal 1933  
2 Mountain Chronicles, by Jon Whyte  
3 Alpine Journal 1896  
4 Thorington Archives, Princeton University  
5 Canadian Alpine Journal 1933  
6 Canadian Alpine Journal 1933  
7 Alpine Journal XVIII

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PHOTO: Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies (4/20/14) (CC-BY)