

Who Was Chief Paulina?

Restoration History and the Reconstruction of Paulina's Identity in Popular Memory

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HC444 Decolonizing Research: The Northern Paiute History Project

Some Background Information:

Chief Paulina was a war chief and a Northern Paiute of the Hunipuitoka band. His life, specifically beginning at the time of the creation of the Warm Springs Reservation in 1855 and ending around the time of his death in 1867, was full of conflicts. Dominant culture during his life and now secondary literature as well as public imagination have cast Chief Paulina as the stereotypical "ignoble savage." He has been demonized and distorted into a bullet-proof, blood thirsty, violent war leader who cared for little but the thrill of raiding.

What's the Point?

My argument is that Chief Paulina was, instead, a skilled leader who cared for his people and fought bitterly to protect his homeland. He made necessary decisions, based on the information and resources he had at his disposal, to care for his people and keep their land.

To Prove this:

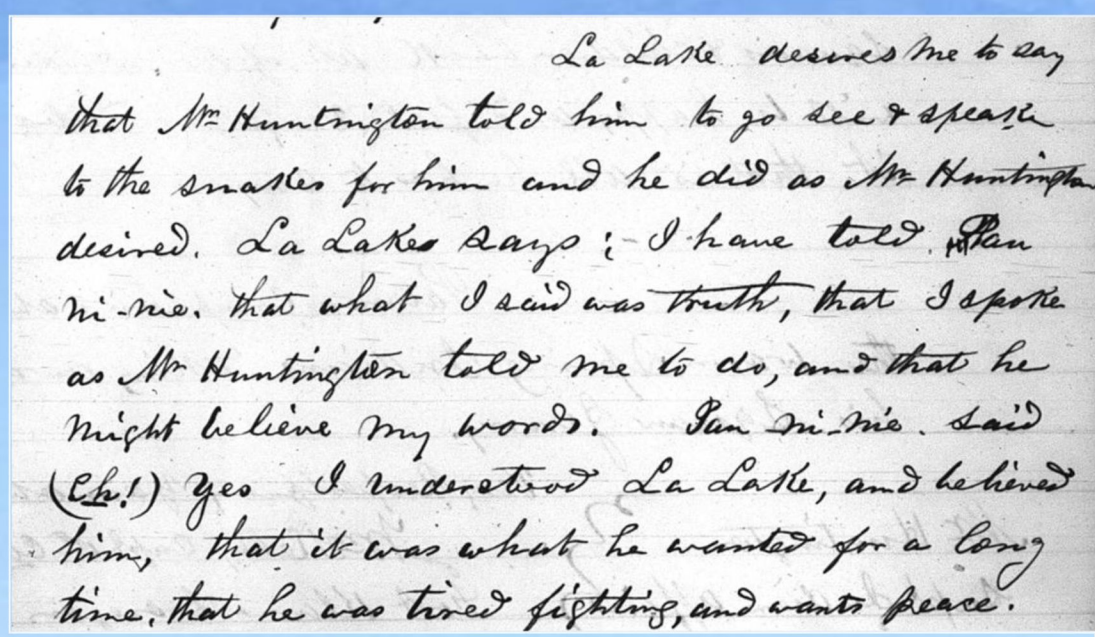
I assess the existing historiography, but focus on original primary sources, including oral histories from Chief Paulina's great-great grandson, Wilson Wewa, to compile a timeline of Chief Paulina's life to clearly display the extant evidence on this subject. I then focus on certain areas of interest that humanize the person behind the legends and compare the conclusions I reach as a counter-narrative to those articulated in secondary literature and area museums.

Why worry?

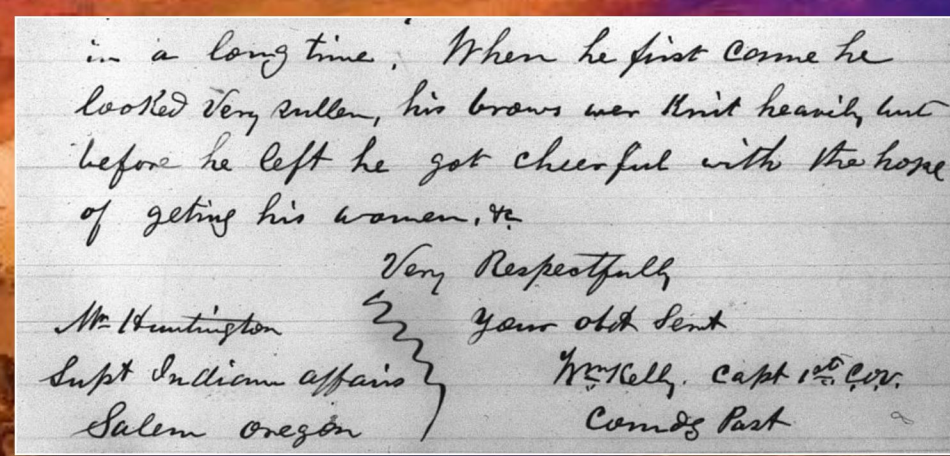
This paper challenges the popular portrayal of Chief Paulina and provides the information to support tangible change in how he is remembered, specifically by making this restoration history available to public knowledge.



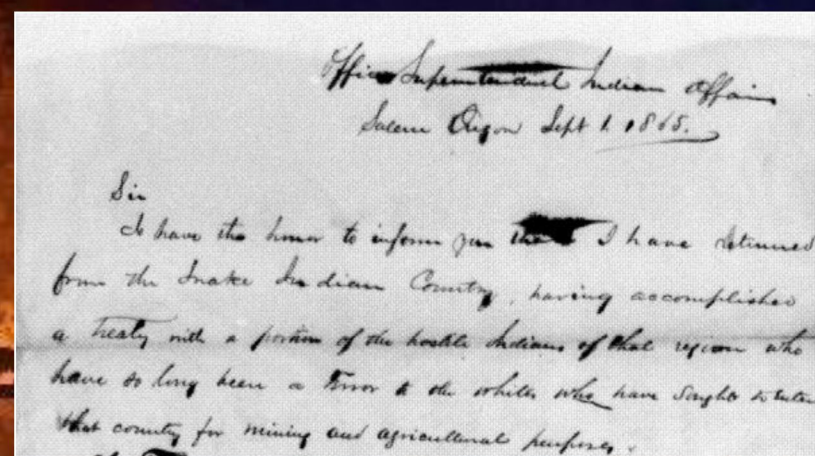
CHIEF PAULINA, OF THE RENEGADE BAND OF SNAKE INDIANS.
 Photograph of Chief Paulina taken on Klamath Reservation, c. 1865, Historical Records, The Oregon History Project.



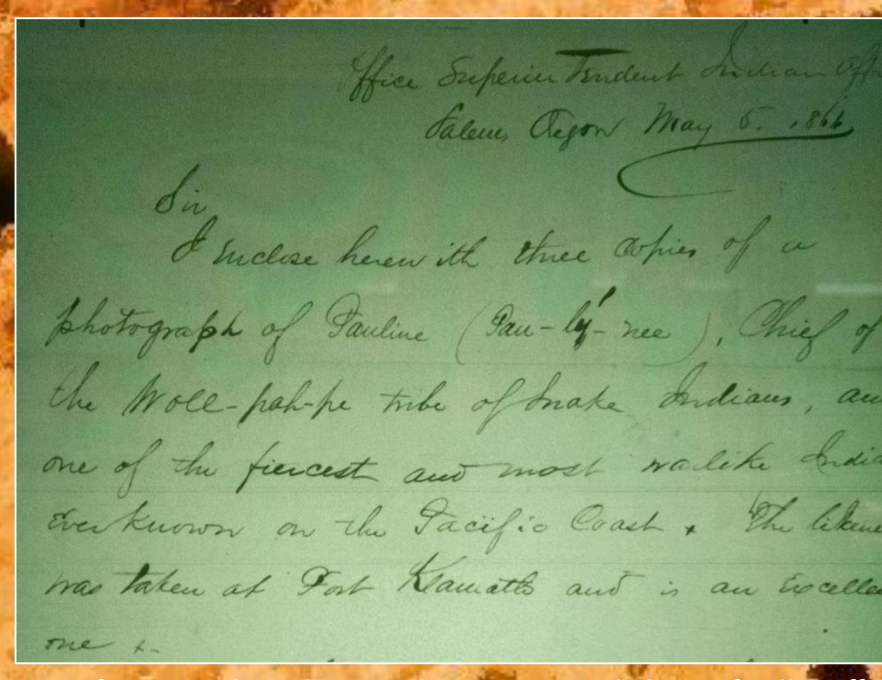
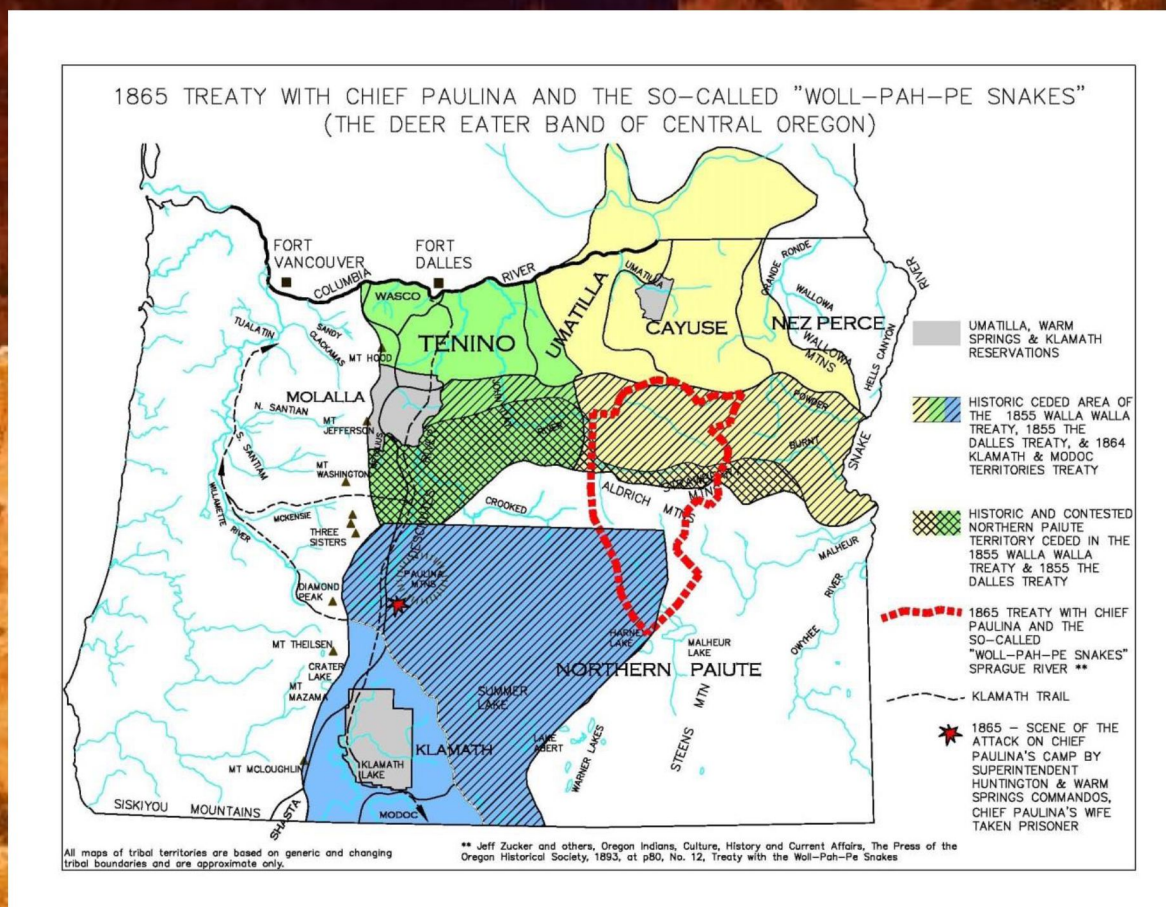
Letter from Captain Kelly to Superintendent Huntington, November 1, 1864, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Records of the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1848-1873, University of Oregon Library, Eugene, OR.



Letter from Captain Kelly to Superintendent Huntington, November 10, 1864, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Records of the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1848-1873, University of Oregon Library, Eugene, OR.



Letter from Superintendent Huntington to Commissioner of Indian Affairs Hon. D.W. Cooley, September 1, 1865, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Documents Relating to the Negotiation of Ratified and Unratified Treaties with Various Indian Tribes, 1801-1869, University of Oregon Library, Eugene, OR.



Letter from Superintendent Huntington to Commissioner of Indian Affairs Hon. D.W. Cooley, May 5, 1866, Office of Indian Affairs, Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1881, University of Oregon Library, Eugene, OR.

wounded; nearly all the boys had bullet holes in their clothing. Paulina is coming west, pursued by Col. Marshall, with part of several companies.

Weekly Oregon Statesman, September 3, 1866.

Lieut. Goodale, with seventeen of his men intercepted Capt. M'Kay near the fishery on the Malheur, and with their united commands had a fight with Wowawewa, killing five Snakes and capturing two prisoners. They also learned through an Indian interpreter from Wowawewa's daughter, the same story in regard to Paulina's death.

Morning Oregonian, July 29, 1867.

'The result will, I fear, be a war from California to Idaho, including the hitherto peaceable Cayuse and the uncompromising Modoc Paulina, a Snake Indian, with eleven braves, kept all Eastern Oregon in fear, while for two years, despite the United States troops, he murdered at will. In the same proportion, how long will sixty Modocs harry the innocent settler'

Morning Oregonian, June 17, 1873.

- 1855 Creation of Warm Springs Reservation through Treaty
- 1856 Columbia River Tribes moved to reservation
- 1859 Recorded Paiute raids on Warm Springs
- April Chiefs Paulina and Weahwewa captured by Warm Springs, imprisoned in Fort Dalles
- April-May Chiefs Paulina and Weahwewa escape from the Wallen road expedition
- 1864 May Rabbit Valley Battle
- Oct. Treaty with Klamaths, Modocs, and Yahuskin tribes
- Oct. Capture of Paulina's wife and child by Huntington through Warm Springs scouts
- Oct. Communication between Paulina and Captain Kelly
- 1865 Quiet season for Chief Paulina's band
- Aug. Treaty with Huntington and Paulina
- Winter Paulina and part of his band stay on Klamath reservation
- 1866 Spring Chief Paulina leaves Klamath reservation
- Resumed raiding
- 1867 April Killed after a raid