

Standing Irons:

The Metis adorned their sled dogs' harnesses with ornaments called standing irons. These were pommel type attachments on the front of the dogs' harness on the hames collar; they were decorated with wool pompoms, coloured ribbons and foptails. Similarly, horse collars were decorated in the same way with standing irons decorated with wool and ribbons and used when the teams were pulling wagons, diplomats or sleighs for weddings and funerals. These were often called Scotch Tops.



Ed Nagle's dog team and carioule: Provincial Archives of Alberta, Image no. B.5707



Dog team with decorated standing irons on harness at Prince Albert c. 1900, T.H.J. Chambury, photographer, Saskatchewan Archives board S-B11843



Note the dogs are wearing tuppies and the standing irons on their harness are decorated with pom poms and ribbons.



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