

Protest and Removal of John McIsaac Wajaw RIN #4761 from the Schedule of Ancestors

John McIsaac Wajaw and his wife Mary Petrin (RIN #4762) were protested after the preliminary AIP Voters list was posted in March 2011. The evidence was considered by a sub-committee of the Review Committee and by the ANRs who decided that the evidence showed that he was not Algonquin. His name was then removed from the Schedule of Ancestors. The ANRs were satisfied that, on the balance of probability, Mary Petrin was Algonquin and she remains on the Schedule.

The evidence included census materials that showed John McIsaac Wajaw was born in the North West Territories around Hudson Bay. He was clearly Indigenous and described as Tête de Boule, which was a termed used at the time to describe a group that are now known more accurately as Atikamekw, who are closely related to the Cree. It was also used in a general sense by fur traders to describe Cree living around the eastern side of Hudson Bay. No records of his birth, baptism, or marriage have been located and the identity of his parents is not known.

The evidence for Mary Petrin showed her as Indigenous, born either in the Nipissing area or in Quebec. According to written records, including some from Indian Affairs officials serving the Settlement area, she was known locally as being Indian and speaking "Indian".

The descendants of John and Mary can trace their descent from Mary Petrin. In the application of the Proposed Beneficiary Criteria Mary Petrin was shown to meet the criteria for 20 years longevity, she also has documented relationships with other Algonquins. All of her known children were born before the end of the Petitioning Period (1897 cut-off date) and provide a second generation/person on the territory. Some, but not all, were born early enough to also meet the 20-year longevity requirement and/or have relationship events.

Some of her descendants could not be certified. This was the case for those applicants descended from the children of Mary and John who do not have longevity or a relationship event in their own right. Because there are only two generations in this family documented prior to 1897, both generations (Mary and her child) need to have a relationship event or the 20-year longevity for their branch to meet the Petitioning Period requirements.

Summary of relevant census data:

- Listed on 1881 census at Clara and Maria Twp. Renfrew North. John's place of birth is given as "North West." The whole family is shown as "Half Breeds".
- Listed on 1891 census at Clara and Maria Twp. Renfrew North. John's place of birth is given as "Nipissing"; his parents' place of birth as NWT. There is no ethnicity question on the 1891 census but the family is checked as being French Canadian.
- Listed on 1901 census in Nipissing District. John's place of birth is given as Hudson Bay. He is noted as "Tete de Bull", Mary as "French" and the children as French Breeds (mixed French and Indigenous).
- Listed on 1911 census at Bissett Creek John's place of birth is given as Hudson Bay. He is shown as "Scotch."
- The correspondence regarding Mary Petrin being "Indian" and speaking "Indian" is at the office and I have not been able to get back there yet. I will send the documents later next week.

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