

**Enrolment Officer's Responding Report made in response to an Initial
Submission by an Interested Party:**

**Report Regarding Ancestors
Frederick Ferris and Walter Ferris
(RIN #5208 and RIN #2196)
dated February 22, 2023**



**Joan Holmes, Enrolment Officer for AOO
Prepared for the Algonquin Tribunal
February 2023**

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Introduction

The Tribunal received a submission from one individual in support of retaining the ancestors Frederick Ferris (RIN #5208) and his son Walter Ferris (RIN #2196) on the Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors. The submission is posted on the Tribunal's website at:

<https://www.tanakiwin.com/tribunal/frederick-ferris-and-walter-ferris-3/>

The submission appears on the website as:

- Document 2 – Initial Submission made by F. Van der Horn

The submission was filed in response to the Enrolment Officer's Report on Ancestors Frederick and Walter Ferris, dated October 2022, which is posted on the website as Document 1 – Enrolment Officer's Report Regarding Ancestors Frederick and Walter Ferris & Appendices.

This responding report addresses the content of the submission that is relevant to the Tribunal's inquiry, which is to determine whether Frederick Ferris and Walter Ferris are identified in a historic record or document dated on or before December 31, 1921, in such a way that it would be reasonable to conclude that either or both of them were considered to be an Algonquin or Nipissing, or a sibling of such a person. A "sibling of such a person" means a person with a common Algonquin parent.

The submission refers to a document that is contained in the Enrolment Officer's Report. As noted in the Enrolment Officer's Report, archival documents recording a family's life events have been assigned ALG document numbers; RIN numbers have been assigned to individuals discussed in the report to aid in identification. Both RIN numbers and ALG numbers will be referenced in this report for ease of discussion.

Document #2 – Initial Submission by F. Van der Horn

The respondent F. Van der Horn submitted a document in support of Frederick and Walter Ferris to the Tribunal. The submission included a photocopy of a burial record for Frederick Ferris. This document is contained in the Enrolment Officer's Report as ALG-06061 and is discussed on page 9 of that report.

The document shows that Frederick Ferris (RIN #5208) died in 1887. His death was recorded in the parish record of St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church in Mattawa. Frederick was described as being "metis," and reportedly froze to death in the "portage des Joachims." His body was buried in the Ferris Point Cemetery at des Joachims, Quebec. His son Walter Ferris (RIN #2196) was a witness to his burial.¹

¹ ALG-06061

This document indicates that Frederick Ferris was of mixed Indigenous and non-Indigenous descent. It does not indicate whether his Indigenous heritage was Algonquin or some other tribe.

Additional documentation was reviewed in the Enrolment Officer's Report at pages 5 to 11 to discuss available information regarding Frederick Ferris' Indigenous heritage. Records provided in the Enrolment Officer's Report indicate that:

- he was born sometime between 1811 and 1817;
- he was said to have been born at the Rocky Mountains (1861 census), Ontario (1871 & 1881 census) and to be from the Parish of Hudson Bay (HBC biographical sheet beginning 1829);
- he was likely the son of Hugh Faries (1779-1852) who was born in Montreal. The identity of Hugh Faries' wife, the mother of Frederick, is not known. Hugh worked in the fur trade for the North West Company (NWC) and was serving at Fort George, New Caledonia (modern Prince George, British Columbia) from about 1807 to 1812 which would be consistent with the statement on the 1861 census that Frederick was born at the Rocky Mountains. By 1812 Hugh was at Cumberland House, Saskatchewan and then in the Peace River District. From 1827 until retirement Hugh Faries served in the Kenogamissie District where his presumed son Frederick joined the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) in 1829.
- Frederick is noted as being both Indian and "metis" on various documents, hence his Indigenous heritage must have come from his mother, assuming Hugh Faries was his father. No information could be found with regards to Frederick's mother. Considering that there were no non-Indigenous women in fur trade country at that time it is almost certain that she was Indigenous and was from one of the nations in which Hugh Faries spent the early years of his career.

The areas in which Hugh Faries served in the fur trade were all outside of Algonquin territory in the early 19th century. Fort George in New Caledonia was occupied by Carrier and Chilcotin peoples. Cumberland House was located on the Saskatchewan River just northwest of Lake Winnipeg in the traditional territory of the Cree people; the Peace River district in northeastern British Columbia encompassed traditional lands of the Sekani and Carrier, an Athapaskan-speaking people, as well as Dene. The Kenogamissie District, and closely related Moose District, where Hugh Faries served a decade after the birth of Frederick Ferris was in Ojibway and Cree territory.