

**Enrolment Officer's Responding Report made in response to a Reply  
Submission by Interested Parties:**

**Report Regarding Ancestor  
Cecile McDonnell dite Mawishk  
(RIN #14687)  
dated March 21, 2023**



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

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	3
2. Document #8 – Reply Submission by J. Poirier .....	3
2.1 Parents of Subject Ancestor Cecile McDonnell (RIN #14687) .....	3
2.2 Margaret Cameron's Parents.....	4
2.3 Marriage of Cecile McDonnell to Narcisse Dorion .....	4
2.4 DNA results .....	5
2.5 Community connections .....	5

## 1. Introduction

The Tribunal received a reply submission from one individual in support of retaining the ancestor Cecile McDonnell dite Mawishk (RIN #14687) on the Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors. The submission is posted on the Tribunal's website at:

<https://www.tanakiwin.com/tribunal/cecile-mcdonnell-mawiskak/>

The submission appears on the website as:

- Document 8 – Reply Submissions by J. Poirier

The submission was filed in response to the Enrolment Officer's Report on Ancestor Cecile McDonnell-Mawiskak, dated November 2022, which is posted on the website as Document 1 – Enrolment Officer's Report Regarding Ancestor Cecile McDonnell-Mawiskak & Appendices, and to the Enrolment Officer's Responding Report, dated February 22, 2023, which is posted on the website as Document 6 – Enrolment Officers Reply to Initial Submissions Regarding #14687.

This responding report addresses the content of the reply submission that is relevant to the Tribunal's inquiry, which is to determine whether Cecile McDonnell dite Mawishk is 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 she was 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 documents that are 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.

## 2. Document #8 – Reply Submission by J. Poirier

The respondent J. Poirier submitted a biographical entry on Aeneas Cameron (1757-1822), a family tree for the extended family of Aeneas Cameron, an extract from an article on the Cameron family by Elaine Mitchell, and extracts from a report on the Métis community at Mattawa. The points made in the respondent's reply report are organized in subsections for ease of discussion.

### **2.1 Parents of Subject Ancestor Cecile McDonnell (RIN #14687)**

The respondent states that the Allan McDonnell (RIN #57432) and Margaret Cameron (RIN #14101) are the parents of Cecile McDonnell Mawiskak (various spellings) and that Alexander McDonnell (RIN #14097) is her brother, based on:

- postings on the internet sites, including *Ancestry*
- a research report on the Métis community at Mattawa

The respondent's submission did not include any primary documents to demonstrate this relationship nor were any cited in the attached internet postings or in the extracted portions of the report on the Métis community.

The available evidence regarding the possible parents of subject ancestor Cecile McDonnell (RIN #14687) is discussed in subsections E.4 and E.5 on pages 13-16 of the Enrolment Officer's Report. No documentation was located that positively identified Cecile's parents.

Subsection 3.2 on pages 9-15 of the Enrolment Officer's Responding Report (which is posted as Document 6) describes the detailed records pertaining to the documented children of Cecile's alleged parents, Allan McDonnell and Margaret Cameron. Numerous primary documents including birth/baptism records, marriage records, death records, the will of Margaret Ann Cameron, as well as the biographical summaries of Allan McDonnell's career, and secondary sources such as the work by Elaine Mitchell provide robust information about the documented children. No evidence has been located that identified a girl named Cecile as a daughter of Allan McDonnell and Margaret Cameron. Alexander McDonnell (RIN #14097) is well-documented as one of seven known children of Allan McDonnell and Margaret Cameron.

## ***2.2 Margaret Cameron's Parents***

The respondent states that Margaret Cameron, who married Allan McDonnell, was the daughter of fur trader Aeneas Cameron and an Indigenous woman from Fort Timiskaming, based on:

- A published article by respected historian Elaine Mitchell entitled "The Camerons of Timiskaming" which states on page 23: "He [Aeneas Cameron] never married although he apparently had a daughter at For Timiskaming who later married Chief Factor Allan McDonnell."
- A biographic sketch from the Archives of Manitoba for Aeneas Cameron that states "Aeneas never formally married, but had at least one daughter, Margaret, with an Aboriginal woman at Fort Temiscamingue."

Note the family tree of the Cameron family provided by the respondent does not include Aeneas Cameron's country wife, his daughter Margaret, or any other spouse or children.

Documentation that indicates that Margaret Cameron was the daughter of Aeneas Cameron and his country wife, an Indigenous woman from Lake Temiskaming within the traditional Algonquin Territory, is included in the Enrolment Officer's Report (which is posted as Document 1) on page 13, and the Enrolment Officer's Responding Report (which is posted as Document 6) in subsections 2.2, and 3.2.b. These reports cite the published work by Elaine Mitchell and HBC biographical information regarding Allan McDonnell. The connection of Margaret Cameron to her parents is not disputed.

## ***2.3 Marriage of Cecile McDonnell to Narcisse Dorion***

The marriage of the subject ancestor Cecile McDonnell to Narcisse Pierre Dorion is documented in the Enrolment Officer's Report (posted as Document 1) on pages 6 and 16, and in the

Enrolment Officer's Responding Report (posted as Document 6) in subsection 3.1, page 8. The marriage document (ALG-07289) describes her as "Métisse."

Census records enumerating this couple and their children are described in the Enrolment Officer's Report (posted as Document 1) on page 7 and pages 10-11. The census records are addressed in the Enrolment Officer's Responding Report (posted as Document 6) on pages 8 and 17.

#### **2.4 DNA results**

The Enrolment Officer does not comment on DNA results from *Ancestry*.

#### **2.5 Community connections**

Connections between subject ancestor Cecile McDonnell and her spouse Narcisse Dorion with Algonquin and mixed-ancestry families in the Mattawa area are provided by the respondent. Some of these and others are also provided in the Enrolment Officer's Report (posted as Document 1) on pages 6 and 9-10, and in the Enrolment Officer's Responding Report (posted as Document 6) in subsection 3.3 on pages 15-16. None of these materials provide evidence directly related to the ethnic identity of subject ancestor Cecile McDonnell or the identity of her parents. They demonstrate the social and cultural connections between Cecile, her spouse and their children and other Algonquin and mixed-ancestry families in the Mattawa area.