

**Enrolment Officer's Reply Submission in response to a Responding
Submission by an Interested Party:**

**Report Regarding Ancestor
Frederick and Walter Ferris
(RIN #5208 and RIN #2196)
dated March 15, 2023**



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

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Document #4 – Responding Submission by V. Coburn.....	4
2.1 Genealogical Chart for Frederick Ferris	4
2.2 Introduction and Comments on the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) Proposed Enrolment Criteria, and Methodology (Respondent's sections 01 to 06).....	4
2.3 The Heritage of Frederick Ferris, his wife Mary Ann Nancy Good, and their son Walter Ferris (Respondent's Section 07, 08 and 09)	4
2.4 Respondent's Conclusions	6

1. Introduction

The Tribunal received a responding submission from one individual in support of removing the ancestors Frederick Ferris (RIN #5208) and his son Walter Ferris (RIN #2196) from 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 4 – Submission by V. Coburn regarding Frederick and Walter Ferris. It was dated February 22, 2023.

Dr. Coburn's submission is responding to the Enrolment Officer's Report which appears on the Tribunal website as:

- Document 1 – Enrolment Officer's Report Regarding Frederick and Walter Ferris & Appendices. It was dated October 2022.

Dr. Coburn's submission does not comment on other submissions which were posted on the Tribunal website as:

- Document 2 – Initial Submissions by V. Van der Horn
- Document 3 – Enrolment Officers Reply to Initial Submission Regarding Frederick and Walter Ferris, which was dated February 22, 2023.

This reply report addresses the content of the responding submission that is relevant to the Tribunal's inquiry, which is to determine whether Frederick and Walter Ferris (RIN #5208 and RIN #2196) 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 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.

This reply does not comment on sections of the submission that pertain to the history of enrolment, research methodology, the application of oral history or circumstantial evidence. Nor does it comment on information submitted or conclusions drawn by the respondent regarding descendants of the subject ancestor or family lines intermarried with their line as these are not issues before the Tribunal.

The responding submission refers to some documents and facts that are contained in the Enrolment Officer's Report (Document 1) and the Enrolment Officer's Reply Report (Document 3). 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. RIN numbers, ALG document numbers, and/or page numbers of existing reports will be referenced in this report for ease of discussion.

2. Document #4 – Responding Submission by V. Coburn

The respondent, V. Coburn, submitted a report to the Tribunal in support of removing Frederick and Walter Ferris (RIN #5208 and RIN #2196) from the Schedule of Ancestors. The submission was sent under cover of a letter dated February 22, 2023. The Respondent's submission consists of a covering letter and a 52-page report dated September 14, 2021 regarding ancestors Frederick Ferris and his son Walter Ferris. The report includes written text, a genealogical chart, and supporting documents.

This reply report comments on the content of the submission that is within the purview of the Enrolment Officer to address and is germane to the issues before the Tribunal. The issues raised by the respondent are organized into sub-sections. Some individuals discussed by the respondent are identified by RIN numbers for ease of identification.

2.1 Genealogical Chart for Frederick Ferris

This genealogical chart provides a family tree for Frederick Ferris (RIN #5208). The chart shows Frederick, his spouse Mary Ann Nancy Good (RIN #5209), four of their children including Walter Ferris (RIN #2196), as well as children of their sons Walter (RIN #2196) and John (RIN #14281). The genealogical chart is copied from a chart created by the Metis Nation of Ontario.

The Enrolment Officer's Report (Document 1) includes a genealogical chart as Appendix 1 showing Frederick Ferris (RIN #5208) and his spouse Ann Nancy Good (RIN #5209) and eight children, including Walter Ferris (RIN #2196). The Enrolment Office has records for the children of three sons: Walter (RIN #2196); John (RIN #14281); and Joseph (RIN #14096).

2.2 Introduction and Comments on the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) Proposed Enrolment Criteria, and Methodology (Respondent's sections 01 to 06)

The content of the initial six sections of the respondent's report is taken from information posted on the AOO's website, the respondent's comments and interpretations of the history of enrolment, comments about Metis organizations and their conclusions, comments on the application of oral history and circumstantial evidence, and an explanation of why genealogy is the most reliable determinant. This reply report is not commenting on these sections as they are not directly germane to the issue before the Tribunal which is to determine whether Frederick Ferris (RIN #5208) and/or Walter Ferris (RIN #2196) 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 they 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.

2.3 The Heritage of Frederick Ferris, his wife Mary Ann Nancy Good, and their son Walter Ferris (Respondent's Section 07, 08 and 09)

The respondent provides background information on the creation of Rupert's Land and the early fur trade and the genesis of mixed-ancestry individuals. He then provides information on the history of Frederick Ferris' employment with the Hudson's Bay Company and census

records. The documents cited by the respondent are all discussed and appended to the Enrolment Officer's Report (Document 1):

- ALG-22432: This document is an HBC biographical sketch which is cited on page 6 of the Enrolment Officer's Report and appended in Appendix 4. While the respondent asserts no information indicates that Frederick Ferris was Indigenous, the Enrolment Officer contends that as Frederick Ferris was born around 1812-1816 (based on his age on the 1861 and 1871 census) and his home parish was recorded as "Hudson Bay," it is most probable that he had an Indigenous mother as no marriageable non-Indigenous women were in the Hudson Bay area at the time of his birth. This is discussed on pages 10-11 of the Enrolment Officer's report.
- As noted by the respondent, no parents have been definitively proven for Frederick Ferris. The Enrolment Officer's Report provides information regarding the likelihood that Hugh Faries (1779-1852) was Frederick Ferris's father. Hugh Faries' service in the fur trade is outlined in the Enrolment Officer's Report on page 9 and appended in Appendix 4 as ALG-40093.
- Census records which enumerate the ethnic origins of Frederick Ferris and his family are discussed by the respondent and included in the Enrolment Officer's Report as:
 - ALG-40077: the 1861 census on which they are not being designated as "coloured, mulatto or Indian";
 - ALG-22439: 1871 census on which they are identified as Irish;
 - ALG-22443 and ALG-40084: two 1881 census tracts on both of which they are enumerated as Indian.
- ALG-06061: The burial record for Frederick Ferris describes him as "metis".

The Respondent does not consider the 1901, 1911 or 1921 census which list Walter Ferris as an Algonquin French Breed (1901, ALG-22454); Irish (1911, ALG-22736); and "Algonquin Indian" (1921, ALG-22493) as convincing evidence of Walter's ethnic origin. These documents are discussed on pages 15-16 of the Enrolment Officer's Report (Document 1).

The Respondent concludes that Frederick Ferris and his spouse were most probably of mixed Indigenous descent born to Irish/English fur trading fathers who made informal unions with Indigenous women from the areas in which they were employed. He further concludes that the Indigenous mothers were not Algonquin or Nipissing based on the districts in which the fathers were serving around the time of Frederick and his spouse's conception/birth. The Enrolment Officer does not disagree with this conclusion. This conclusion also applies to their son Walter Ferris (RIN# 2196).

The Respondent provides some information for Walter's wife, Mary Ann (aka Anna) McDonald (RIN #2197), who was the daughter of Alexander McDonald (RIN #14097) and Mary Ann McKay

(RIN #14098) on page 19. The respondent concludes that Mary Ann McDonald is of Algonquin descent. A complete genealogy and history of Anna McDonald has been provided by the Enrolment Officer and posted to the Tribunal's website at <https://www.tanakiwin.com/tribunal/anna-mcdonald-mcdonnell-3/>

The respondent did not consider information regarding the association of Frederick Ferris and/or Walter Ferris with Algonquins on the Settlement Territory to be relevant to the issue before the Tribunal. This evidence is outlined on pages 8-9 and 11-16 of the Enrolment Officer's Report (Document 1).

2.4 Respondent's Conclusions

The respondent concludes that Frederick Ferris and his wife Mary Ann Nancy Good were of mixed-ancestry, that they derived their Indigenous heritage from their mothers and that their mothers in all probability would not be Algonquin or Nipissing but most likely Cree.

Likewise, their mixed-ancestry son Walter Ferris' Indigenous heritage would not be Algonquin or Nipissing but most likely Cree. His marriage to Mary Ann (aka Anna) McDonald, a woman of Algonquin descent would not make him Algonquin.