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**Enrolment Officer's Report**  
**Frederick and Walter Ferris**  
**(RIN #5208 and 2196)**

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REPORT OCTOBER 2022

HEARING MAY 2023

## The Enrolment Officer's Task

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To assist Tribunal in determining whether it would be reasonable to conclude that either Frederick and/or Walter Ferris are properly considered an “Algonquin Ancestor”

- Conduct research on the ancestor
- Present findings of research
- Provide historical and genealogical context to research findings

# Algonquin Ancestor

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“Algonquin Ancestor” means

- a person who was born on or before July 15, 1897
- identified in an historic record or document dated on or before December 31, 1921
- in such a way that it would be reasonable to conclude that the person was considered to be an Algonquin or Nipissing, or a sibling of such a person
- In this definition, a sibling of a person is a person with a common Algonquin parent

# Organization of Report

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- Narrative outlining the written evidence
- Five Appendices:
  - Genealogical chart: ancestors of Frederick and Walter Ferris
  - Timeline for Frederick Ferris
  - Timeline for Walter Ferris
  - List of documents with source information
  - Images of documents with source information
- Posted on Website as Document 1

## Responding and Reply Reports

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- Tribunal received 7 submissions from interested parties  
Posted on website as Documents 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12
- Enrolment Officer's Responding reports posted as  
Documents 3, 6, 9, 10, 13

## Added to Preliminary List of Algonquin Ancestors

- Added by a Board decision in June 1997; Walter's daughter Maggie Ferris was also added.
- A protest against Frederick Ferris was dismissed in 2011

## Sources of Information

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- Various baptism, marriage and death/burial records for Frederick and Walter Ferris and their children
- 1861- 1921 various census for Frederick and Walter Ferris, Walter's spouse Anna McDonald, and their children
- Biographical records and entries for 'Frederick Faries', Richard Good
- Maps and secondary sources regarding Moose Factory and the Moose District

# Moose Factory and the Moose District

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## ➤ **Moose Factory**

- Located on James Bay at the mouth of the Moose River system; HBC headquarters for Moose District; men attached to Moose Factory travelled annually to inland posts up the tributaries of the Moose system
- Rupert's Land to 1870, then NWT
- Cree territory

## ➤ **Flying Post, Mattawagamingue, and Kenogamissi Post**

- Inland posts attached to Moose Factory
- Rupert's Land to 1870, then NWT, Ontario by 1876
- Ojbiway territory



## Frederick Ferris & Nancy Good

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### □ Frederick Ferris 'Faries' (c.1811-17 to 1887)

- Born Hudson Bay country. Likely son of Hugh Faries Jr. (1779-1852); Hugh born in Montreal in 1779, with NWC at Rainy Lake, Rocky Mountains, Cumberland House; at Kenogamissi with HBC 1827-1837
- Frederick served HBC from 1829; at Moose Factory in February 1833 at time of marriage
- Frederick married Nancy Good in July 1833; officiated by Chief Factory of Moose Factory; witnessed by Allan McDonnell
- Frederick' career mostly in Moose District at Mattawagamingue Post (1833 to 1848), brief period in charge of Flying Post in April-May 1844; as "guide, etc."; retired 1848

### □ Nancy Good (c.1821 to 1896)

- Daughter of Richard Good (1780-1850); English, joined HBC in 1796 at Moose Factory, served in Moose Factory, Kenogamisee, Frederick House, Abitibi and Matawakaminge; clerk at Moose Factory 1818-1823, 1825-1839; retired 1843
- Nancy's unnamed mother died in May 1846, supposedly close to 90 years old (born c.1756); Nancy's 1891 census return states mother was born in Manitoba
- Nancy married Frederick Ferris; their children born 1834 to 1845 at Matawakamaw Lake (1834, 1839, 1843) and Flying Post (1837, 1841)

## Frederick Ferris & Nancy Good, cont.

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Frederick Ferris (c.1811-17 to 1887) and Nancy Good (c.1821 to 1896)

- Frederick retired from HBC in 1848
- Moved to Chapeau Pontiac via Temiskaming, son baptized there in 1850; resident at Rivière Noire
- At Chapeau, Allumette Island, 1853
- 1861 census at Aberdeen, Pontiac with four sons: Richard, John, Walter and Joseph; places of birth inconsistent: Frederick-Rocky Mountains; Nancy-Hudson Bay; sons-Lower Canada; no notation in column for “Colored persons, Mulatto or Indian”
- 1871 census at Deep River, Pontiac North with son Joseph; Richard, John & Walter head own households; places of birth inconsistent: Frederick-Ontario; Nancy-Quebec; sons-Quebec; men said to be Irish; Nancy English
- 1881 census at Fort William and at Sheen, Aberdeen, Esher and Malakoff, Pontiac; family shown as born in Ontario and Indian; in Algonquin community at Fort William
- 1887 Frederick died at Mattawa, noted as ‘metis’; buried at Ferris Point near des Joachims, Quebec; son Walter was witness

## Walter Ferris

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### Son of Frederick Ferris and Nancy Good

- Walter born December 6, 1841 at Flying Post; Frederick's service shows him at Mattawagamingue at that time with brief attendance at Flying Post; Walter's siblings born Mattawagamingue (1834, 1837) and Flying Post (1839)
- 1861 census at Aberdeen, Pontiac Walter with parents and siblings Richard, John, and Joseph; places of birth inconsistent: born in Lower Canada; no notation in column for "Colored persons, Mulatto or Indian"
- 1864 married Anna McDonald in Rolph Township; place of birth given as Moose Factory
- 1871 census at Deep River, Pontiac North in own household with wife Anne and daughters Ann Sophia and Margaret; place of birth inconsistent: born in Quebec and Irish
- 1873 denounces former religions and baptized in Catholic church, Mattawa; witness Loysa Atkinson

## Walter Ferris, cont.

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- ❑ 1874 baptized daughter Jane Maria, Sheenboro, resident at Alexander; witness Mary Petrin
- ❑ 1878 witnessed baptism of Charlotte Jane Atkinson daughter of Angelique Atkinson, Mattawa
- ❑ 1880 baptized son Walter Joseph Ferris, at Mattawa; witnesses Paul Chevalier and his wife Mani Susanna (Hudson) descendants of Paul Kwiwissens and Paul Okimakijik on the Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors
- ❑ 1881 census at Fort William and at Sheen, Aberdeen, Esher and Malakoff, Pontiac; Walter shown as born in Quebec and Indian; in Algonquin community at Fort William
- ❑ 1883 witnessed burial of Charles Fils du Grand at Mattawa; Charles was spouse of Cecile Leclair, Cecile is descendant of Benjamin Leclair and Francois Kawitadijik on the Schedule; other witness is Paul Chevalier, descendant of men on Shedule
- ❑ 1883 witnessed baptism of son of Paul Chevalier and Mani Sosa Hudson, other godparent is Elizabeth Atkinson, at Mattawa. On same day, his daughter Nancy Ferris and her husband Oliver Dufaut witnessed baptism of Annie Florence of unknown parents (likely Atkinson)
- ❑ 1891 census listed with Anna, children and widowed mother Nancy; Walter born NWT (Flying Post would now be in Ontario; Moose Factory in NWT), at Mattawa; proximity to Leclerc-Ferris and Leclerc-Parent families

## Walter Ferris, cont.

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- ❑ 1895 witnessed burial of Charlotte Stephens née Commanda, descendant of Pejiweiasitch Buckshot and wife of a descendant of Shawanipinesi, Mattawa
- ❑ 1896 Walter witnessed the burial of his mother Nancy Good; also witnessed by descendants of François Kakwabit and Antoine Wekimwanotipetc, Mattawa
- ❑ 1899 witnessed burial of Amble Dufond, signatory of 1863 land petition and 1865 Mattawa petition
- ❑ 1901 census at Mattawa, Walter listed as a Algonquin French Breed born in Ontario and “R” – Indigenous; in grouping of 11 Algonquin families
- ❑ 1905 Walter’s son John Ferris married his cousin Angeline McDonald daughter of Johny McDonald and Angelique Dufond descendant of Amable Inini dit Napons , Mattawa
- ❑ 1911 census at Mattawa, listed with wife Anna and adopted daughter Virginia, shown as born in Quebec and Irish
- ❑ 1921 census at Mattawa, living with Anna in household with son John; Walter born in Quebec, “Algonquin Indian”; common listing for other known Algonquins
- ❑ 1932 Walter died, civil record shows him as Indian born in NWT, as were his parents, son John informant, at Mattawa

## Summary: Frederick Ferris (1811-17 to 1887)

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- ❑ Frederick born around 1811-1817
- ❑ Possibly son of Hugh Faries (1779-1852), born Montreal, served NWC and HBC at New Caledonia or Cumberland House at relevant time; later at Kenogamissi
- ❑ Married Nancy Ann Good 1833 at Moose Factory, daughter of Richard Good who served in Moose District, and unnamed mother
- ❑ Migrated to Ottawa River-Pontiac area by 1850
- ❑ 1881 census, Fort William, listed as Indian; 1887 death identified as 'métis'

## Summary: Walter Ferris (1841-1932)

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- ❑ Son of Frederick Ferris and Nancy Good; born 1841 at Flying Post
- ❑ By 1850 had migrated with family to Ottawa River area. Recorded at Temiskaming (1850), Chapeau and Fort William (1853, 1881), Rolph Township (1864), Deep River (1871), Mattawa (1873, 1883-1932)
- ❑ Identified as: Irish (1871, 1911); Indian (1881); Algonquin French Breed (1901); ~~Algonquin~~ Indian (1921); Métis (1932)
- ❑ Witnessed numerous baptisms and burial of documented Algonquins; Algonquins witnessed his family's events
- ❑ Lived in close proximity to documented Algonquins at Fort William and Mattawa
- ❑ Family members intermarried with McDonald family members