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Enrolment Officer's Report
Anna McDonald
(RIN #2197)

REPORT NOVEMBER 2022
HEARING MAY 2023

The Enrolment Officer's Task

To assist Tribunal in determining whether it would be reasonable to conclude that Anna McDonald is properly considered an “Algonquin Ancestor”

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

Algonquin Ancestor

“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

- Narrative outlining the written evidence
- Four Appendices:
 - 2 genealogical charts: ancestors of Anna McDonald; descendants of Anna McDonald's parents
 - Anna McDonald's timeline
 - List of documents with source information
 - Images of documents with source information
- Posted on Website as Document 1

Responding and Reply Reports

- Tribunal received 3 submissions from interested parties
Posted on website as Documents 2, 3, & 4
- Enrolment Officer's Responding report posted as Document 5

Added to Preliminary List of Algonquin Ancestors

- Added by an ANR decision in 2012
- Her name is given as Ann, Anna or Annie; surname McDonald or McDonell
- Married Walter Ferris; married name Ferris

Sources of Information

- Various baptism, marriage and death/burial records for Anna McDonald, her mother, grandparents, children, and grandchildren, beginning in 1836
- 1871- 1921 census for Anna McDonald, her spouse Walter Ferris, and their children
- Biographical records and entries for her father Alexander McDonell, grandfathers Allan McDonell and John McKay, and great grandfather Aeneas Cameron
- Burial record and will of grandmother Margaret Ann Cameron
- Extracts from secondary source regarding Fort Temiskaming

Temiskaming

- Temiskaming/ Temiscamingue historic fur trade post established mid-17th century. Taken over by HBC at time of merger in 1821
- By 1836 Sulpician priests visiting and encouraging settlement around the post on the east side of the lake, now Quebec
- Algonquins petitioned for a reserve at Lake Temiskaming in 1849; reserve was set aside in 1851
- Oblates took over religious services in 1863, moved the mission to the west side (Ontario)
- Known Algonquin/Nipissing families had services conducted at both Temiskaming and Lake of Two Mountains mission (Oka)

Anna McDonald's Parents

- ❑ Anna McDonald (1844 to 1933) born at Temiskaming, daughter of Alexander McDonnell and Marian McKay

- ❑ Father: Alexander McDonnell (1809-1853)
 - Born in “Indian Country”
 - Son of Allan McDonnell and Anne Cameron
 - HBC employee (1826-1846) at Temiskaming from 1833; retired c. 1846

- ❑ Mother: Mary Ann McKay (b. 1822, death c.1861-1878)
 - Baptized at Temiskaming in 1836 at age 14
 - Daughter of John McKay and Elizabeth Nettawabank dite Nikens
 - Married Alexander McDonnell in 1837
 - Had at least six children 1839-1848

Anna McDonald's Maternal Grandparents

- ❑ Maternal Grandfather: John McKay (father of Mary Ann McKay)
 - Worked for NWC from 1815 then HBC from 1821, from Temiskaming Parish and related to the 'Principal Indians' of the district
 - Could be son of Donald McKay, but unsubstantiated

- ❑ Maternal Grandmother: Elizabeth Nettawabank dite Nikens (mother of Mary Ann McKay)
 - Baptized at Temiskaming in 1836 at age 39, day following Mary Ann's baptism
 - Married John McKay same day as her baptism and legitimized children born since 1822

Anna McDonald's Paternal Grandparents

- ❑ Paternal Grandfather: Allan McDonnell (father of Alexander McDonnell)
 - Trader from Scotland worked for XY Company, NWC, and then HBC from 1799
 - Succeeded Aeneas Cameron as Chief Factor at Temiskaming
 - At Temiskaming 1826-1843, on leave 1833-1835
 - Upon retirement in 1843, brought his country wife Margaret Ann Cameron to Montreal, died 1859

- ❑ Paternal Grandmother: Margaret Ann Cameron (mother of Alexander McDonnell)
 - Margaret Ann Cameron was daughter of trader Aeneas Cameron and an Indigenous woman from Fort Temiskaming
 - 'Married' Allan McDonnell
 - Children born circa 1809 to 1831
 - Baptized at Red River 1833 while boarded there in Allan's absence
 - Retired to Montreal with Allan McDonnell, died there in 1885

Anna McDonald Places of Residence

- ❑ Born and baptized at Temiskaming 1844-45
- ❑ Married at Rolph Township, Renfrew County, 1864
- ❑ Residence and events celebrated at Deep River, Ferris Point, Point Alexander, Sheenboro, Fort William, and Mattawa 1871-1933

Ethnic Origins

- ❑ Father Alexander McDonell identified as “metis” on 1837 marriage record. Indigenous heritage came from his mother Margaret Ann Cameron, daughter of an Indigenous woman from Temiskaming
- ❑ Mother Mary Ann McKay was daughter of John McKay and Elizabeth Nettawabank dite Nikens. Nikens was married and baptism and had her children baptized at Temiskaming. John McKay was related to the “principal Indians” of Temiskaming district
- ❑ 1871 census listed Anna McDonald as **Scotch**
- ❑ 1881 census listed Anna McDonald as “**Indian**”
- ❑ 1901 census listed Anna McDonald as “**R**” for **Indigenous**, and **Algonquin SB** (SB=Scotch Breed)
- ❑ 1911 census listed Anna McDonald as **Scotch**
- ❑ 1921 census listed Anna McDonald as **Algonquin Indian**. The entire family was identified as “Indian” written to replace “Algonquin,” which had been struck through
- ❑ 1933 death record lists Anna McDonald as **Indian**

Connections to Algonquin Families

- ❑ 1836: Mary Ann McKay, mother of Anna McDonald, was baptized at Temiskaming, godfather Bazile Kijiinni dit Merry, who is on the Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors
- ❑ 1836: John McKay and Elisabeth Nettawabank dite Nikens, grandparents of Anna McDonald, married at Temiskaming with Algonquin witnesses Bazile Kijiinni dit Merry and Paul Inini dit Napons both on Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors
- ❑ 1873, 1880, 1889: Anna attends baptisms as witness or parent with other known Algonquins as godparent/parents
- ❑ 1881 enumerated at Fort William with 45 households, in which all but 6 individuals identified as Indian. Many identifiable Algonquin families
- ❑ 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921 enumerated in Mattawa alongside known Algonquin families

Summary

- Anna McDonald was born and baptized at Temiskaming in 1844-45. Her parents had been there since at least at least 1833
- Anna's maternal grandfather, John McKay born c. 1797, was from Temiskaming, worked there from 1815 and was related to the "Principal Indians" of the district. Maternal grandmother Nikens, Indigenous with all recorded events at Temiskaming
- Anna's paternal grandmother, Margaret Cameron was the daughter of an Indigenous woman from Lake Temiskaming. Paternal grandfather Scottish trader
- Anna identified on census records as Scotch (1871, 1911), Indian (1881) "R" meaning Indigenous and Algonquin Scotch Breed (1901), and Algonquin Indian (1921). On her 1933 death record she was identified as Indian
- Anna documented as associated with known Algonquin families along the Ottawa River from Fort William to Mattawa, 1873-1921