

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: ARCHIE O'AR
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: WABASCA
ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: WABASCA
ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION: CREE
LANGUAGE:
DATE OF INTERVIEW:
INTERVIEWER: ERNEST CRANE
INTERPRETER:
TRANSCRIBER: J. GREENWOOD
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Loss of treaty status due to mistaken identity.

Ernest: What is your name?

Archie: Archie O'ar.

Ernest: How old are you?

Archie: Fifty-two years old.

Ernest: Where were you born?

Archie: Here at Wabasca.

Ernest: Have you lived in this community long?

Archie: I've always lived here.

Ernest: Where did your parents live?

Archie: Here at Wabasca.

Ernest: Where did they live when the treaty was first signed?

Archie: Always here, because they've lived here all their lives.

Ernest: Are you a treaty Indian?

Archie: No, I'm not.

Ernest: But you're always here at Wabasca?

Archie: Yes, always.

Ernest: When people were first treaty, where were they registered?

Archie: You mean names? Like my father's name?

Ernest: Yes.

Archie: Here, they've always lived here.

Ernest: Could you tell us why you got eliminated from the treaty list?

Archie: Like I said, the first time the Indian agents arrived here, then all of a sudden, about this time when school was almost out, we got thrown out of treaty. I was supposed to stay one more month at the Anglican Mission, and when we were there and it was treaty day, we never received our treaty money. There were many other people in the same situation that time, like Francis Auger's children, I was with them at the mission. Then we never got paid nothing.

Ernest: Do you know why?

Archie: No, I don't know why that happened. My father had been mistaken for someone else, like it was him who took scrip. But my uncle who had died was always a treaty. And they throw that scrip at my father, that's why they eliminated us. My sister was there too. So they never had nothing to do with us.

Ernest: Did your father take scrip?

Archie: No, he never took it. Charlie O'ar (who died) had took that. Then they mistaken him for my father; they said it was him who took that scrip.

Ernest: All of you?

Archie: All of us.

Ernest: Your mother too?

Archie: No, my mother was a treaty for a long time. Then my father arranged for her to be eliminated since they were married, because if a person got out of treaty, he'd get one hundred dollars. Like in ten year's time, she could've got back into treaty. That's what they said. But she's still a Metis. So nothing was ever mentioned about that again, why that hapened. Like after ten years, they would get more money, they were told, but they never got paid. That business was

never clarified. There were lots of people in that situation. They got out of treaty but never got paid, only the one hundred dollars that were given to them, like that was for ten years.

Ernest: Have you tried to get admitted back recently?

Archie: No, I never did.

Ernest: Well that's all I have to ask you, and I appreciate what you've told me, unless you have anything else you want to add.

Archie: No, that's about all I can remember. I've told you everything I know. I was fourteen years old when I was eliminated. My father wasn't all that good hearted. When they wouldn't let us out of the mission, he told him, "I'm going to go and take them out right away, since I wasn't given any money." So he came to get us, that same day.

Ernest: Nobody gave him any money?

Archie: Nothing, so he came straight to the mission and took us.

Ernest: Were your grandfathers always treaty?

Archie: Yes.

Ernest: They never got eliminated?

Archie: No, I don't know about my father's father, but my mother's father was not thrown out. He was always a treaty till he died.

Ernest: That's all then.

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