

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: MRS. ELSIE BADGER NOSKIYE
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS:

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GRANDE PRAIRIE
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LANGUAGE:
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INTERVIEWER: DAVE KAPPO
INTERPRETER: ROSE SADDLEBACK
TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Mrs. Noskiye, a granddaughter of Papaschase, recalls what she was told of the history of her ancestors and their reserve. She was born in 1883, or earlier.

Dave: Now you can start speaking.

Elsie: That is all I know is that his father went by that name.

Dave: Perhaps you could tell us now that his name was Papastaw.

Elsie: Yes, Papastaw was my father's name, he'd say. But then I just don't know where that person lived nor do I know where that took place. He never actually stated the name of the territory. I would remember that place if he had stated it. He never revealed where he came from. All he said was that the territory he came from was a prairie country. I guess he used to hear the elders speak of the wars in that area.

Dave: Yes.

Elsie: He spoke of those wars. I heard him talk about the wars. He said, the people would ride on horse back whenever they were out scouting for the enemy. He also didn't state who their rivalries were. He didn't say whether they were fighting with the white people. I can't say if he participated in it or maybe just heard stories about the wars.

Dave: I am sure he has seen the incidents.

Elsie: He told about those days when the people were out scouting for their enemies in that part of the territory. These stories were told to us over and over again. (It is difficult to determine where these wars took place as the interviewee keeps referring to the actual place as "over there somewhere".)

Dave: He knew for sure though that he personally stated that his father's name was Papastaw?

Elsie: Yes. That is true. According to my father, that was his father's name.

Dave: You've also heard him say that he came from the southern part of the country but you don't know the exact location?

Elsie: No, I really don't know where he came from.

Dave: You've heard him describe the territory as being in a prairie. According to the elder's stories about the days of the buffalo they described the territory as a prairie land where they pursued the buffalo?

Elsie: Yes. He told that story several times. The people rode on horseback to chase the buffalo according to the stories about the olden days.

As far as his home territory is concerned, I don't know where he came from.

Dave: Perhaps you could relate to us your recollection of the olden days?

Elsie: I scarcely remember anything of the past. It is pathetic once you've reached old age when you begin to experience the problem of recollecting the past history. I just remember certain events at sporadic moments.

There is a thing one of our forefathers cautioned us about but I did not believe his prediction. He told us then that in future the white people will invade our country and we would be pushed out of our own land but not to retaliate in a similar manner. He told us just to try and concentrate on our means of livelihood. I just don't understand how my father based his judgement when he was illiterate in the English language both verbally and written. And still he understood the white man's ways far in advance. Today I see that prediction.

Dave: In essence, that is the state we're in presently?

Elsie: That is happening today. I tell my children about his prediction. It is amazing how knowledgeable he was. Where he got this knowledge is a complete mystery. He did not receive formal education and yet he was capable of making predictions

about the social patterns of people. In addition, he stated "You will also foresee the day (in future) when our close family ties will disintegrate, we will lose contact with our closest relatives." I am seeing that happen today.

Dave: That is happening.

Elsie: Yes. Where and how he got this knowledge as he was not ever in school to learn all these things is incomprehensible. That is what he preached us throughout his lifetime. He was very much against the idea of creating or holding bad feelings towards your fellow man. His philosophy of life has always puzzled me. Little I knew then that I was going to live through that experience.

Dave: Of course, he acquired knowledge through experience.

Elsie: Maybe he had supernatural powers to be able to predict the future results of this country. (i.e. premonition, prescient). He was a young person at that time.

Dave: Approximately how old was he when he deceased?

Elsie: I don't remember but he wasn't all that old.

Dave: I do not believe he died of old age.

Elsie: No, he was still quite healthy and hard at work when he died which was during the period the epidemic killed off many people. He must have been around 70 years old. He was respectable, and a generous man. He talked about the future constantly, there was not a single white soul living close to this vicinity to tell him anything as far as I can remember.

Dave: You must remember in the olden days when the people would camp in one place and move to another camp. They were not confined to stay in one specific area. Where did they go or what areas were covered?

Elsie: I don't know (pause) People would head towards the south direction. A big lake was situated in that region not too far from the mountains. That is the only place we moved to.

My father died there during the great epidemic. His body was buried in a bush there and hence we went back repeatedly to that location.

His body lies nowhere close to this vicinity. I did not see too many places other than this northern bush country.

Dave: You are definite that your grandfather's name was Papastaw?

Elsie: I know that much. Yes. I heard my father on several occasions mentioned that he had a father by that name.

Dave: They had lived in that territory.

Elsie: Yes. He always talked about the days of the wars that people rode on horseback, etc.

Dave: So when he left that territory, he came back to this area (Lake was mentioned on tape but can't pin-point the name of that lake).

Elsie: Yes.

Dave: Now, about his wife, was she originally from the (big lake??) here?

Elsie: Yes, she's from here. Yes, my mother was from here including her mother. They both were raised up around here in the vicinity of the lake. You must have heard the name (Ka-maw-chee-oo) i.e. hunter.

Dave: I did hear it.

Elsie: That was her sibling, a brother, that is all I know. He made his living by hunting game, etc. For that reason, I dislike the taste of western food or other fancy dishes. I was raised up on wildlife food.

Dave: That applies to all the northern people. I personally don't care for the white man's food.

Elsie: Yes.

Dave: I lived on wildlife too.

Elsie: All my life, I have lived on wild game.

Dave: Is that all you could relate to us about your father's father? The fact your grandfather's name was Papaschase?

Elsie: Yes, I am certain.

Dave: Papastaw was his name. For this reason, we're perhaps on speculation figure the reserve did belong to Papaschase since it was named after him. Why would the reserve be named after him? Surely it must mean something.

Elsie: Yes, maybe.

Dave: Other elders from this area were questioned on this specific issue. They think that your father came from the reserve or at least nearby that vicinity.

Elsie: Yes. That is what he claimed but then he never specifically stated the name of the place (or land region, etc.) The only thing he talked a lot about were the wars, that's all.

Dave: I think that will be all. We're taking too much of your

time. The information you gave us is what we had wanted to hear as no one has positive knowledge of the location your ancestors came from.

Elsie: Yes.

Dave: But now you've confirmed that your grandfather's name was Papastaw.

Elsie: Yes.

Dave: Perhaps, from here, there is some evidence to indicate that the reserve called Papaschase did in fact -- was allotted to him.

You've mentioned that sometime in the latter years of your father's life, he left that region and came towards this northern country and married a woman from here.

Perhaps, if your father was alive today he would have eventually went back to the land allotted to them.

Elsie: Yes. My father didn't die of old age. I guess he was around 70 years old. He was still very healthy.

Dave: This is all, once again, as long as we get some background information about your ancestors and knowing from first hand information that your grandfather's name was Papaschase.

Elsie: Yes, that I know for sure.

Dave: Yes, since the reserve was named after him it would appear that the Papaschase Reserve belonged to him. Why would it be named after him?

You also mentioned about the wars long ago which took place in the prairies. Your father related these stories to you.

Elsie: Yes, that's what he used to say.

Dave: Hence, probably both of them (meaning Elsie's father and grandfather Papaschase) came from the same place since Papaschase was your grandfather. Upon your dad's arrival here, he was commonly known as Papaschase.

Elsie: He did not have any relatives. He did not have any brothers and sisters. These days, I am very weak myself. I am much weaker at certain times, I have some kind of blood disease.

Dave: You've said a lot. From here they will (implying researchers) know what to do. (i.e. perhaps, understand the Papaschase Reserve much better.)

Elsie: I heard him talk a lot about it.

Dave: Papaschase was your grandfather's name.

Elsie: Perhaps, if he was alive he would know more about it.

Dave: Its foremost importance is to find out your grandfather's name and a reserve to be named after that person. It's possible that the reserve was allotted to him and belongs to him.

This is what Harold Cardinal wants to find out. Just what background information we could find to supplement the research projects. What you've related to us means a lot. You still have a great memory for your age.

Elsie: There's a lot I've forgotten about the past as I can't rely on my memory these days. I'm just not feeling too well at all. Just recently, my daughter tried to have the hospital discharge me but the medical staff disapproved the request. She would like to take care of me at her own place.

Dave: You're well kept here. You rest and eat well. Although it's considerate of your children to try and care for you till the end (i.e. death) but it's very difficult.

Elsie: Yes, she is a heavy drinker and I dislike to be in a place where alcohol is involved.

Dave: Yes.

Elsie: My other children came to visit me recently all in a stupor state. I chased them out as I don't like to be bothered by drunks.

Dave: Yes.

Elsie: They don't have any respect for people.

Dave: That is the whole problem with our people. The use of alcohol is degrading us.

NOTATION: According to a phone call made to Central Park Lodge 21/3/77, the personnel stated that the lady's date of birth is January 16, 1883 but is believed to be much older than 94.

(End of Interview)

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