

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: FRANCIS GAMBLER
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: CALLING LAKE
ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: CALLING LAKE
ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION: CREE
LANGUAGE:
DATE OF INTERVIEW:
INTERVIEWER: ERNEST CRANE
INTERPRETER:
TRANSCRIBER: J. GREENWOOD
SOURCE: OFFICE OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS
& RESEARCH
WINTERBURN, ALBERTA
TAPE NUMBER: IH-273
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC 33
PAGES: 4
RESTRICTIONS: NONE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- An account of loss of treaty status and attempts to regain it.

Ernest: What is your name?

Francis: I'm called Francis, but from the priest's information, it is supposed to be different. He said, "Your name is Francois. It's written here." But William took the papers to Slave Lake the day before yesterday - when he came to the funeral here. That's when I talked to him and we went and seen the priest that time. I was wondering why I'm not a treaty, and they filled out papers. I was told they should help you out since you're still included. That was the reason why, so I had a good talk with them. That was the only problem I had, so I filled out forms - maybe they're still around here (William).

Ernest: What is your last name?

Francis: That's the only name I have, the only other one they call me is Cha-cha-wens.

Ernest: Is that Gambler?

Francis: Yes, that's Gambler. I've lived here ever since I knew my younger brothers and sister were treaty. I used to be treaty too. Then when I was building a house, the chief died. I was thrown out. Many of the non-treaty were included in the

treaty membership that time - and I was thrown out that time too. So on account of that, I tore down the house I was building on the reserve. I still don't have a house today. I live with my younger sister.

Ernest: How old are you?

Francis: I'm 66 years old now. My younger sister has the papers, that's where we should go. She lives just around the corner.

Ernest: Did she get paid already?

Francis: I never did, but she's got the papers. The priest had been here. I think we're passed over 68 years old. I'm only one year apart; his name is Francis Gambler too. He's been a treaty a long time. I'm only taking action now.

Ernest: Where were you born?

Francis: It's called Mink Lake. It's about 23 miles, not far from here. That's where I was born - in the bush.

Ernest: Have you been here a long time?

Francis: A long time ever since I was small.

Ernest: In the reserve?

Francis: Yes.

Ernest: When the treaty was first signed, did the Indians live here?

Francis: I guess so, my mother was treaty.

Ernest: What was your mother's name?

Francis: Maggie.

Ernest: What about your father?

Francis: My mother was living common-law. I don't know if she ever got married. The next man she lived with was Pat Crow. I think they got married. They live here - around the corner.

Ernest: What about that man, is he treaty?

Francis: He's a treaty Indian, my mother had always been a treaty before. William found some papers saying two children were treaty when I was thrown out. He said he still had the papers.

Ernest: William Beaver?

Francis: Yes, he's got the papers. My treaty number was written there too. I had one treaty number.

Ernest: Do you remember your grandfather's name?

Francis: Sam Baptiste Gambler.

Ernest: And your grandmother?

Francis: What's my grandmother's name? Chi-ma-tow.

Ernest: Where did they live?

Francis: They used to live here.

Ernest: Here in the reserve?

Francis: Yes, some of them were scattered elsewhere. As far as I know, I stayed with my grandfather - Sam Baptiste, a long time

when I was small. That's where I stayed. As they grew up, he had lots of cattle long ago. He had no right in the reserve, so he got out, so that's what he was told.

Ernest: Do you remember how old you were when they thrown you out of the treaty?

Francis: No, I just don't know that. The time when the chief, Bigstone he was called, he really helped me a lot that time, so I received money. I had a wife from Wabasca. We must be registered over there. That's where I finally got assistance from.

Ernest: Do you still remember anything else you can tell us?

Francis: Not that I know of, ever since I was thrown out from treaty, I never bothered with anything. That's all I can say. My younger sister who was 3 years old that time was treaty too lives here. That's the one I told you we should go and see. Her name is Veronique. We're twins. There shouldn't be any complications there. She received pension a long time now. She married my brother-in-law, Francis. Since she's married she received it right away but, she got a lot more just lately. I was given half of it already, she said. I think she said around \$900.00 or a little more, she got it not long ago.

(End of Interview)

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