HIGHLIGHTS:

- The entire document is a list of the various mixed blood descendants of one George Sutherland. This day I went to see Father Le Chevalier of the Oblate Order at the Mission. This Mission and school is one of the largest that I have yet seen.

This priest is an old man whom I first met at the pilgrimage. He spent most of his career as a missionary among the Blackfeet and moved to this Duck Lake district eight years ago. His hobby is Indian history and his office contains the most important of the historical works on the region. He had copies of Dr. Wissler's work on the Blackfeet. He keeps a card index file and makes annotations from the historical journals and diaries he has. Thus when I asked him a question about the Gros Ventre, he pulled out several cards and quoted passages which proved that the Gros Ventre once had lived in the Carlton district.
But the most important of his works is a thick ledger in which he has the genealogical tables for most of the Indians on the three Duck Lake reserves. He has compiled these tables partly from informants' evidence but mostly from the old church records of baptisms, births, and marriages.

These records, as he has them compiled, show pretty conclusively that most of the Paskuxkupau wihiwiuka, the Savannah People, or the Willow Indians as they were called, originated from one George Sutherland, a Scotch trader.

Father Le Chevalier had a short sketch of the life and appearance of this man which he had gathered from the literature and also from the stories of the Indians. Sutherland came from Scotland in 1790. In 1795 he left for Fort Albany and later went down the Assiniboine River to establish Brandon House. (This quoted from Masson -- Bourgeois de la Compagnie du Nord Ouest.) In 1795 he built the first Edmonton House (see David Thompson's Jul.) and in September of that year came to Fort Carleton. He is last mentioned by Harmon who saw him in 1800.

This man subsequently left the service of the Hudson's Bay Company and lived on the prairie as an Indian accompanied by his children and grandchildren who formed a sort of patriarchal group. He never went back to the Fort but his written requests for goods were immediately honored by the Factors.

His first wife, according to one of the journals, was an educated woman and so must have been from the northeast where the Hudson's Bay Co. had the only Indian schools of the day. The name of this first wife was papamikewis -- "Swinger." By her he had four children. They were:

Male:
1. Tcimauskat, who married nap-tcis-t and kinaskamowisk.
2. Napiku, who married maiku-t and another woman.

Female: The first daughter(s) migrated to Battleford.
4. Yakutsu-s, who married Beardy.

Note: Beardy who was the great chief of the Park People later, was thus a son-in-law of Sutherland. His father was a French halfbreed.

According to the story, George Sutherland took two sisters from "the prairie" to wife. His first wife left him and then went off to live with her children although there was not much bad feeling between her and her husband. His second wife was paskus, "Rising." By her he had nine offspring. They were:

Male:
1. One Arrow - who became chief.
2. Munia (not the Battleford chief).
3. Istcaw.
4. Neamitamoneu, "Old Fifty."
Female:
5. Ckweu, who married Osowistikweu.
6. Apukusis.
7. Nicopumiusa, who married awitah.
9. Nawapukayus, who married seswepiu. This man was chief before okimasis, who was a Swampy Cree.

Sutherland's third wife, neototosimi, "Four Breasts," had ten children by him:

Male:
1. Kanamatcit, "Lefty."
2. Agamaskiu.
3. Pakustiwiu.

Female:
5. Kapiskokatik.
6. Tcipitakwaskauik.
7. (?)
8. Tawiskamikus.
10. Mutcikawakau.

Father Le Chevalier also had the records of a French-Canadian known as wimtcik, who had seven children by his wife. All of these excepting the youngest married children of Sutherland.

Male:
1. Okimauasu, married tcipitakwaskauik.
2. Kakutayawat, married tawiskamikus.

Female:
5. Ayamis  }both married One Arrow.
6. Minuskipiuhat)

Sutherland died suddenly while out hunting buffalo with his grandchildren. Le Chevalier had a record of 59 of his grandchildren although the list was not complete.

At any rate, it is quite certain that the Willow Indians, whose descendants are on the three Duck Lake Reserves, were the progeny of Sutherland. Who inhabited the territory before he populated it, the Indians did not know, and Le Chevalier's only guess was that it was the Gros Ventre, who derived their name, Pawistigo wiyuwuk, Rapids People, from the Grand Rapids of the Saskatchewan River. My questions as to old chiefs were also unavailing and it seems that the first chief of their people was really George Sutherland. Unless the literature gives evidence of the existence of Willow Indians prior to 1800, it
may be said that this band sprung from the loins of one man. When I asked where they got their women or men, they said from "all over from the prairie and from the bush."

According to Father Le Chevalier, the two great chiefs of the Carlton district, ataskakop and mistawasis were also halfbreeds. Ataskakop was a descendant of one Louis Chatelaine, a man from Three Rivers who was clerk at the Northwest Company's South Brand Fort (See Jul. Of Duncan McGillivray). Mistawasis was also named Pierre Belanger.

The Cayeu or Callieu that so frequently is a breed surname (as uktuwehau or Alexander Cayeu) was originally Acadiai, "From Acady."

According to Le Chevalier, these Paskuxkupau wiyuiuwuk carry on but few of the old dances and even have very few artifacts bearing the aboriginal influence. They always kept somewhat apart from the other prairie tribes and were of a different nature.

It is apparent that these people are vastly different from those I encountered to the south and east. Not only do they bear a liberal admixture of white blood, but their very origin has been due to the advent of the Hudson's Bay Company. Most of them are devout Catholics.

Father Le Chevalier happened to mention that he had heard of a rich archaeological site at Blackfoot Crossing -- near Cheny where there is a wide flat beside the river.

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