

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT:	THOMAS WAHASATENOW
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS:	SADDLE LAKE RESERVE ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION:	SADDLE LAKE RESERVE ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION:	CREE
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DATE OF INTERVIEW:	
INTERVIEWER:	LOUIS RAIN KEN TYLER
INTERPRETER:	ERIC STAMP
TRANSCRIBER:	JOANNE GREENWOOD
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sale of Saddle Lake Reserve lands.
- Fate of the Washatanow Reserve.

Louis: Can you name yourself and how old are you first?

Thomas: 75 years old.

Louis: And your name?

Thomas: Thomas Wahasatenow.

Louis: Since when are you here? Long time?

Thomas: I was born here.

Louis: Can you tell us of what you know about land surrender in 1925?

Thomas: Oh no, I couldn't tell, the only thing is the people won, the people who wanted to sell the land. That is the only thing that I know. For those of us who didn't want the surrender, we finally lost. They voted over and over and finally we lost.

Louis: Did they have group discussion?

Thomas: Yes, they had meeting prior. They were taking names,

other than that I don't know if they had any big meetings.

Louis: That is all, you couldn't give any specific information I guess.

Thomas: No, I couldn't give much information.

Louis: But I guess you know how much money the people got?

Thomas: Yes, they received \$100.00 per head.

Louis: And the promises that were made along with the payment, was there any promises made that there would be assistance in any as such they will receive?

Thomas: Oh, I don't understand you 'cause I don't speak English.

Louis: Oh, oh, were the people promised anything besides the \$100 per person that they got?

Thomas: No, I don't know, but the only thing is the promised interest.

Louis: How many kind?

Thomas: Oh, I couldn't say, there was different amounts given.

Louis: Finally it ran out?

Thomas: Finally it ran out, there was no more given.

Louis: Who was the one imposing on the Indian to surrender the land?

Thomas: Oh, I'm sure it was the Indian agent. Mr. Shirt and Mr. Houle were the two who were really pushing for the surrender.

Louis: How did it come about, the surrender? Some of the people were against the surrender and some were for the surrender. How did the final vote come about and by how many votes were they defeated?

Thomas: Oh, I could not say. In some parts there I forgot, but the people voted over and over; the inspector was conducting the voting. As the re-voting was going on there was more and more people for the surrender, finally we lost and the land was surrendered.

Louis: There is another question that I am going to ask you, regarding where you come, the reserve Washatanow what actually happened?

Thomas: That I really don't know. I was born here, after they got here. My father was at Washatanow for 2 years; while he

was there the transfer couldn't take place. Washatanow Reserve they couldn't move to Saddle Lake. And then finally one elderly woman advised him, "Oh Sonny, some time in the future should you get sick you are going to have a hard time," he was told. The elderly lady convinced him so he moved to here Saddle Lake, then the reserve (Washatanow) was moved to Saddle Lake. They surveyed the land right away. Andrew House was there as a witness. Should any misunderstanding arise he was the man to contact; he was Metis person. Now he is dead. But Washington House should have some information regarding that since that was his father. They had a map but Washington House lost that map. But I seen what was happening regarding Washatanow Reservation here that is.

Louis: Could you tell us about it?

Thomas: Yes, I'll say for instance where Horace lives it comes down to where Gordon Steinhauer lives to cut line, goes south up to the Hamelin road by Julian Moses' place and out here by Hamelin to send off the reserve. It comes down mile short and crosses the river and over the hill across the river.

Louis: How many miles or across in all do you think there is?

Thomas: Oh, I can't tell you, but you can go to John Brereton or Willy Brereton, they know all though I was born before but I don't know cause I don't speak English.

Louis: Is that all you can recall regarding your land?

Thomas: Yes.

Louis: What are some of your wishes regarding this matter?

Thomas: As far as I'm concerned, I don't think Washatanow Reservation was ever joined to Saddle Lake. Eddie Brereton had a document stating that the Washatanow Reserve was never joined with Saddle Lake. As far as I'm concerned, I would like for us to have the say and control of our own land the Washatanow Reserve instead of someone else. Take like old man Crier, he died. So we have lost our leader. So it looks as if they've taken our land. Now regarding Mr. Washington House, I don't know his whereabouts but he is in Edmonton someplace.

Louis: How old is he, approximately?

Thomas: Approximately, some older than I am.

Louis: He is still alive?

Thomas: Oh, yes, he is still alive.

Louis: What is his real name?

Thomas: Washington House. I am sure he would have some information if he was asked some questions.

Ken: Do you know anything about how the Blue Quills people came here? From Andrew or Egg Lake?

Thomas: No, I don't know anything of them but Julian Moses and Adolphus Kakeesim, they must know quite a bit in that area.

Louis: I thank you very much for what you have told us.

(End of Interview)

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