

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: THOMAS QUINNEY
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: FROG LAKE
ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: FROG LAKE
ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION:
LANGUAGE:
DATE OF INTERVIEW: JANUARY 17, 1973
INTERVIEWER: LOUIE P. CRIER
CYRIL MUSKEGO
INTERPRETER: JOE REDCROW
TRANSCRIBER: J. GREENWOOD
SOURCE: OFFICE OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS &
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WINTERBURN, ALBERTA
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Treaty #6 signing; understanding of treaty terms.
- Loss of land (an island) thought to be part of Frog Lake Reserve.

I'm living on Puskiakiwenin (Best Sportsman) Reserve. The other reserve is Unipouheos (Make Someone Stand). These are the only two divided reserves of Frog Lake.

I'm not too sure on which reserve I'm on. I might be on Onpehihaw Reserve. I don't know where the boundary line is. The people also forgot where the boundary line was.

I'm going to start now.

Today we met here with the Treaty Research Group. I'm going to help these people all I can.

I've been here quite a while and I'm 65 years old. There used to be an old man here with us by the name of Simon Jodwa. This old man was pretty old. When the treaty was signed he was there. I've heard him many times telling of what went on when the Indians signed the treaty. When he passed away there was another old man, Simon's son, by the name of Kanapaissowoo, (Little Boy). This old man used to say, "I'm very sorry, while I'm living I should tell the whole story of the treaty because the generation to come will need this story of treaty signing."

When the treaty was signed he was just a boy. I know the true story of what happened when the commissioners made treaty with the Indian. I was informed by my father.

My father used to tell me, "The commissioners were with the Indian at the Little House (by Onion Lake) for three days. The commissioner took that long to complete the Queen's message and promises. The commissioner said, "I'm sent down here by Her Majesty to buy the land and negotiate with you Indian people. I came here to make an agreement with you people." He used three fingers to point, meaning to say, "The first thing is I came to buy the timber so the white man in future can make lumber to build houses. The next thing is the hay land so the white man can feed their stock in the future. The last thing is the land, only six inches from the surface. In the future the land will be used for farming purposes."

The commissioner said, "From there on you will know I'm not buying the animals you are living on, like moose, etc. Also any migratory bird and fish are all yours. These are the only three particular things that I'm buying. The rest is yours. That is why I'm sent here to inform you people." That's all for that.

About our reserve here, the way it was surveyed, as you know, Frog Lake Reserve. There are two old men living today that were with the surveyors when our reserve was surveyed, one of them was Ellie Moyo, but they are too old for them to remember.

The other thing is, I'm very sorry to say, when this old man, Pierre Godwa, was telling of the signing of the treaty, I should have known better to write the whole story. That is all for that.

There is one thing I like to mention. We hear Indian Cree language broadcasting on radio. What people don't like is too much English is used. It should be all Cree. People like to hear their language spoken on radio. When they hear English, they just turn off the radio. I hope all these stories we are telling will be heard all over.

Fred Horse and Thomas Quinney wanted to know about the removal of the boundaries and also the loss of the island in Frog Lake. This island used to be used for logging purposes. The second time they were going to cut logs the Indian agent told them not to. They asked why, they thought the island belonged to them. "No," the Indian Agent told them. "If you do so you will be charged as trespassing and stealing because I've wrote to Ottawa. I've had a reply saying you people have no rights on the island. The government said this island is for the birds."

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