

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: LAZARUS ROAN 3  
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: SMALL BOY'S CAMP  
ALBERTA  
INTERVIEW LOCATION: SMALL BOY'S CAMP  
ALBERTA  
TRIBE/NATION: CREE  
LANGUAGE: CREE  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: MARCH 30, 1974  
INTERVIEWER: LOUIS RAIN  
INTERPRETER: LOUIS RAIN  
TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD  
SOURCE: OFFICE OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS  
& RESEARCH  
WINTERBURN, ALBERTA  
TAPE NUMBER: IH-204B  
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC 38  
PAGES: 3  
RESTRICTIONS: NONE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Describes how the people of the Sharphead Reserve scattered and went to live in other reserves after illness struck them (N.B. In this account it is described as smallpox, cf. IH-204 where it is given as measles, IH-171A where it is thought to be poisoning, and IH-192 as influenza).

Mr. Lazarus Roan, age 70, originally from Hobbema who now resides with Small Boy near Robb, Alberta.

I asked the questions about Sharphead Reserve, that was abandoned by Indian people that were there.

Louis: First of all I'll ask you about Sharphead. Could you tell something about that reserve, as of now we are doing research on those matters. Is it true they abandoned that reserve? They never surrendered or anything like that?

Lazarus: No, my mother there has said I was at the age of a teenager. There were two speculations: one was that they were purposely poisoned the time they forcefully took over the trading post (store) on that Sharphead Reserve. The agitation of the whites rose from that incident.

Louis: When was this, in 1885?

Lazarus: I don't know when, but it was a long time ago. When they moved from there it was in the fall. They were afflicted

by the smallpox. Almost all of them died as a result of the smallpox then. I hear there was only seven families that survived. Those were mostly Stoney people. They were all pretty sick or dissoluted of the outcome of the disease. For this they went on their own ways. They couldn't stand the destruction of the disease and the loss of their people. And most of those people went to what is now Wabamun Lake and some went into Hobbema and were transferred.

As I've mentioned, if you wanted to know about the people, I could name them. One went to Winterburn, that was Sharphead. He was the grandson of the Chief Sharphead. And one of them went to Morley. Of all I know I'll tell you. After all this has happened, it came to pass people started to forget the incident at Sharphead. They wanted to go back home to Sharphead. When they went back to Sharphead they were told they couldn't stay there. The white people had taken that reservation. This interviewer has come and asked me about this. There was one Stoney who received some land from there. His name was George Rain. He was given a piece of land near Buck Lake area. The people that wanted to go back to Sharphead reserve and were told not to stay there. And it is true they were given a piece of land from their reserve. They were Rains. They benefitted from that reserve. They were given portions of land from Sharphead. I know this for a fact. That's why I'm saying it.

We used to be with those people. My father has been told about this. When he tried to get some land, apparently this George Rain was short of names. He was given our names. When he had enough names that's how come he got this land. They actually came from Sharphead. The white people weren't given rights to that reserve (Sharphead). I investigated about this, when white man said six townships, that's how big this reserve was. And as far as I know there was two sections that Indians still owned. I worked for one white man when he told me this and I've told the chief and council about this too. He had told me how much they were paying per acre for the land. \$2.50 goes to the Indian Agency at Hobbema. These were the white people that have bought that land on the reserve. And the rest of that money goes to Ottawa and the white man is getting the benefits out of this. There was only \$2.50 that goes to Indian people and it is not known where that money has gone to. This is what I know of that. I know this for a fact 'cause my mother came from there. And also my father knew all about this and some other elders also from there.

And there's a man who is now at Ermineskin Reserve whom we called (Cuppeian) in Cree. Gabriel Stoney, his father, came from there at Sharphead and would probably know something about this too. He was transferred to Ermineskin reserve and had brought with him all the cattle and horses that were left by the people that took off from there, - missionaries, traders, - and those animals were given to these Stoneys. And this my grandfather Gabriel's father brought all those cattle with him to Ermineskin reserve when he got transferred there. This is

what I know about this Sharphead reserve.

Louis: Did they abandon that reserve without surrendering it?

Lazarus: They never surrendered it. This is what I've mentioned. They never surrendered it. They abandoned that reserve simply because they were sick of loneliness of their relatives that have died of the smallpox disease - when they tried to go back home to that reserve, they were driven away from there. This is all I know about this, and I do know it for a fact.

(End of Interview)

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