

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: WILLIAM STEINHAUER  
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: SADDLE LAKE RESERVE  
ALBERTA  
INTERVIEW LOCATION: SADDLE LAKE RESERVE  
ALBERTA  
TRIBE/NATION:  
LANGUAGE:  
DATE OF INTERVIEW:  
INTERVIEWER: LOUIE RAIN  
KEN TYLER  
INTERPRETER: ERIC STAMP  
TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD  
SOURCE: OFFICE OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS  
& RESEARCH  
WINTERBURN, ALBERTA  
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Account of the sale of Saddle Lake Reserve lands.

Louis: Could you tell me your name and age please?

William: William Steinhauer, age 69.

Louis: What I want to ask you is about 1925 when the surrender was made here. Were you present at the time? Did you vote?

William: No, I wasn't old enough to vote, but I was there when the surrender was made. March 5, 1925 was when the surrender took place. Well, I haven't got very much I can relate for the fact I was not inside where the actual proceedings took place but what I know. There's a slough near Two Hills that we had, I don't think we received anything to buy, so they just abandon the idea of selling that part. And then on the Indians endeavor ways of how they could be compensated from that and they haven't succeeded yet up to this day. In 1930 the chief and council with the Indian agent (Mr. Gillion) sold that part, from there I can't account what happened.

Louis: Do you remember how much they were supposedly received when they sold that land?

William: No.

Louis: Who were the chief and council then?

William: Thomas Makokis was a chief and Jimmy Cardinal and if I remember right Augustine Steinhauer I think. If there was any from Goodfish Lake I wouldn't know. I'd just returned from school when this thing happened.

Louis: Did they get together before this?

William: Yes, they had meetings before they surrendered the reserve.

Louis: When they had those meetings, were all the reserve people attending the meetings and did everybody vote?

William: Yes, everybody. Goodfish Lake and Saddle Lake people were all here.

Louis: How did this happen? Were all the people in favour of the surrender?

William: When voting took place, I was standing with my Uncle Morley Steinhauer. He asked me if I was old enough to vote and I said "No." He says, "Well, I guess we are beat." They were beaten by one vote.

Louis: He was against the surrender?

William: Yes, he was against it. This I know for sure they were beaten by one vote to surrender the land.

Ken: Do you know if anyone was trying to convince the people to sell the land from outside the reserve? Somebody from outside the reserve?

William: Not that I know of.

Ken: What about the agent or the inspector?

William: The inspector, he was the man that was trying his best in order to...

Ken: To sell it?

William: To buy the land for the returned men.

Ken: Did he give any reasons why the people should sell?

William: That I wouldn't know.

Ken: The chief was against it though?

William: (Why) He was in for it.

Louis: Who was this Chief?

William: Thomas Makokis.

Ken: Do you know if this was the first time they tried to get the people to sell?

William: No, they've tried before.

Ken: Do you know or hear what happened in those other times?

William: No.

Louis: What promises did they make to the Indians then?

William: Well, after the agreement was made, we were given one hundred dollars per head. Everybody received one hundred dollars but I don't know how much monies set aside. But there was this \$50,000.00 loan that was set aside.

If a person wanted to farm or if he wants to buy cattle, he could get a loan from this money. And the following year they were given, oh, quite a few. They've spent that \$50,000.00 in no time. Horses, some two teams, two sets of harness, plow, discs and harrows and some wagons were given also. And not long after, we received interest money. But I don't remember the amount. Then again, this was ceased. We didn't get any after that.

Louis: When was the reserve fenced?

William: Fenced? When the boundary was made? I don't know.

Louis: Did you ever hear if the people (Indians) were ever tried to stopped by anyone from fencing?

William: No, what my grandfather used to say they just went fenced the boundary.

Louis: Why I say this for, in the old documents it said that when the initial work was done on the boundary, someone came and tried to stop the people (Indians) from fencing, apparently from Board of Trades of St. Paul. They were about to start fencing when somebody told the agent to stop the Indian people fencing, because they wanted to buy that land.

William: I don't know anything about that, 'cause I wasn't big enough then I guess when they fenced the boundary.

Louis: How many surrenders did the people make?

William: Just once. But there's a whole section near where we used to call Two Hills where the reserve used to be, there's a big slough there in that whole section, we never received anything on that.

Louis: You lost it just like that?

William: We lost it just like that.

Louis: Did anybody ever look into it?

William: It was my late Nokomis Robert Houle, he made quite an effort to try and get something out of it, but did no good.

Louis: Is he still alive?

William: No, he died long ago.

Ken: Do you know if there was people who were away when the vote was taken to sell? Any people who didn't vote?

William: I don't know.

Ken: Do you know anything about the two times like they came first and they had people surrendered or sell the land to the Soldiers Settlement Board and then they came back in the summer and they asked if you can change the agreement? Do you remember anything about that?

Louis: Was there anyone that went around and asked the people's opinion if they would be willing to surrender the land?

William: He was alone, as I said before. That was Robert Houle who went around and really got involved trying to get the surrender through.

Louis: He went around and asked?

William: Yes.

Louis: How did the people react? Was there a protest later or what? Were they satisfied?

William: After he had collected votes or names, they had meetings then. And after they resolute that they would surrender the land. This is where they hold that meeting and this lawyer, I'm not quite sure what his name was but I think they called him Mackie. He was the one that dealt with the case.

Louis: Who was the interpreter then?

William: My grandfather, Robert Steinhauer.

Louis: Is there anything else you could relate pertaining to the surrender?

William: No.

Re: Washatanow

Ken: You know why the Washatanow people came into this band? Or to this reserve?

William: No.

Louis: Well, I guess that's it. I'd like to thank you for what you've told us.

(End of Interview)

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