

Nap Johnson

Nap Johnson: No, I stayed over there. My mother, her dad died...

Wayne Morin: What was her dad's name? What was your...?

Nap Johnson: Baptiste, Baptiste Misponas.

Wayne Morin: Misponas.

Nap Johnson: Misponas.

Wayne Morin: They're from...?

Nap Johnson: Stoney River, Pinehouse.

Wayne Morin: [says something in Michif]

Nap Johnson: Nohkum...Angele [says something in Michif]...Grand-grandmother.

Wayne Morin: Great grandmother.

Nap Johnson: She's from...uh...what do you call it...Beaver Lake, another town just north of there...Lac la Biche. That's where the Bishop picked her up...nobody to look after her...just a little, little girl eh...

Wayne Morin: What was her name?

Nap Johnson: Marie LePat. The French, the sisters that took her to Winnipeg. So, and another one, Kezee, they were the first to stay in Buffalo Narrows. Marcel Kezee married to Charlotte. Charlotte also, she was just a little girl over in Lac la Biche, and the Bishop had took them to a mission in Winnipeg, I mean Saskatoon. Not Saskatoon, Winnipeg, with wagon and horses, they take those two little girls Over there, John Catfish married my grand-grandmother, Marie LePat, and then again she came riding in the wagon with the Bishop and also Charlotte, and they got Charlotte married to Marcel Kezee, and my grand-grandfather, he was a boxer, John Catfish, he, they paddled up the river with a York boat eh. You know those York boats, they leave here with seven, seven York boat, six men, seven men in each boat. They go, they start from here when the lakes begin to open up. They paddled all the way to the Hudson Bay, the ocean eh. And then they paddle along the ocean and they come to that Winnipeg River, Red River they call it, to go to Saskatoon. They get freight there to load up all those seven York boats. They came down there again, they paddle along the coast and then they come up the Churchill River. When they got here the leaves were off the trees already in the fall.

Wayne Morin: When did they leave? As soon as open...?

Nap Johnson: As soon as open, in May, and then they come back here in October. It took them all summer.

Wayne Morin: What did they bring?

Nap Johnson: A lot of freight, with a lot of people, they divide that...Hudson's Bay Company [inaudible]

Wayne Morin: Oh that's who they work for?

Nap Johnson: Oh yeah, yeah. And then the oxens would haul the freight to South End, Green Lake, and then they didn't have to go to Winnipeg. They just go here.