

Elder Interview of Daniel Daigneault (A:)
Place: Ile-a-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan
Date: July 2, 2001
Interviewed by: Kathy Hodgson-Smith (Q:) Interpreter: Yvonne Kyplain (Y:)
Transcribe & translated by: Wayne Morin
Present at Interview: Lilah Morin, Clem Chartier, Brenda MacDougal, Anna Ryding & Carla Elder
Type of equipment used: 8mm-video recorder c/w cordless microphone

Time

00:03:00

Q: What's your name?

Y: What's your name?

A: Daniel Daigneault.

Q: Where were you born?

Y: Where were you born?

A: I wonder where, here in Ile-a-la-crosse, Sakitwak.

Q: When when were you born?

Y: When were you born?

A: Ayah, 23, 15, July.

Y: Were you born in a hospital?

A: I don't know.

Y: He doesn't know.

*tapping
sound*

Q: Where do you live?

Y: Where do you live?

A: When right now, right here Ile-a-la-crosse.

Q: Have you lived elsewhere?

Y: Where did you live in the past?

A: When I was a child I lived in Canoe Canoe River with my grandfather.

Q: When did you move to Ile-a-la-crosse?

Y: When did you move to Ile-a-la-crosse?

A: I was born here, so I stayed here.

Q: Why why did you move?

Y: He never moved.

Q: What education do you have?

Y: How long did you go to school?

A: I was just about to start, I was living in Beauval with my grandfather, I was going to start school, my dad he got remarried, cause my mom died, he got remarried, he come to get me. We lived in and around the bush (chuckles).

Y: You never went to school?

A: Never, I was already registered, he came to get me, so I didn't go.

00:02:03

(Conference, changing seating arrangements. Confirming questions and strategy)

00:04:18

Y: I'll ask you again where you lived and talk about across and other places that you lived.

A: In South Bay, when my dad come to get me, and.

(Interruption from guest, other conference between members)

00:05:01

Y: Where else did you live, long ago?

A: I was living in Beauval with my grandfather when my mom past away. I lived there about 2 years. Than my dad come to get me, we sometimes come to stay here in the spring and then back over there, the Bombing range over there, he trapped there.

Y: And where else?

A: When he was done trapping we lived in South Bay, but I don't remember how many years. We were living there when a disease was going around, I wonder when was that. (Points with lips) Answer it (referring to telephone). We lived in South Bay, we moved to Fort Black at time of the disease; I don't remember when I was about 14 years old when we moved.

Y: In about 1937?

A: It would be.

Y: Why did you move to Fort Black?

A: Because of the disease and because my grandfather was barely alive because a lot of his children had died and grandchildren, that is when we moved.

Q: Are you married?

Y: Are you married?

A: When? Well of course.

Y: Right now.

A: (laughs) yes, yes I've been married for long, 58 years right now.

Y: What year?

Q: What's your wife's name?

A: Victoria.

Q: What was here name before?

A: Durocher.

Q: Durocher?

Q: Where was she from?

Y: Where is she from?

A: Beauval.

Q: Is she Metis?

Y: Is she Metis, like a half-breed?

Q: Yes. (Nods)

Q: Do you have children?

Y: Do you have kids?

A: NO (laughs) lots.

Q: How many children?

A: 12

Q: Can you name them?

Y: Name them?

A: (laughs) I wonder who was the first, Marie Adele, Maglorie, And than you?

Y: Tony.

A: Tony.

Y: Leo.

A: Leo, and than you, Yvonne, How about Mary?

Y: Mary.

A: And

Y: Abraham

A: Abraham, I think Anna is first.

Y: Anna

A: Anna, than Abraham.

Y: Beatrice.

A: Beatrice and Paul, Kelly, I think that's all, I wonder. (laughs)

00:08:25

Q: What are his parent's names?

Y: What are the names of you dad and mom?

A: Abraham my dad, Alexia my mom.

Q: What was his mom name before she was married?

A: Bouvier, Bouvier.

Q: Where did his parents live?

Y: Where did they live?

A: At first in Canoe River than South Bay them too.

Q: Do you remember the names of your grandparents on your father's side?

Y: Like your dads, dad?

A: His name was Prosper and your great grandmother was Josephine. I think hey? They call her Isekwey, but Josephine, yes.

Q: Does he remember where there from?

Y: Are they from here?

A: They must be from here, but my grandmother's dad Magloire Morris is from south somewhere.

Q: What about your grandparents on your mother's side?

A: His name was Francis Bouvier and I don't remember, I just don't remember her name, Mary Rose I think, Laliberte.

Q: Where were they from?

A: Green Lake I think Laliberte.

Y: They're both of there, Green Lake?

A: Who?

Y: Their mom is from Green Lake?

A: Yes.

Y: And their dad?

A: I wonder where, I think the old man came from Black Lake, my grandfather's dad.

00:10:27

Start 00:10:26:27

Q: What languages do you speak?

A: Cree, French little bit, little bit English. (laughs)

Q: Do you speak Michif?

A: Yeah.

Q: Where did you learn to speak Michif?

A: I don't know.

Y: How did you learn?

A: I probably learned by listening to the people talk.

Q: How do you describe yourself are you Metis?

A: (nods yes)

Q: Was your father Metis?

A: (nods yes)

Q: Did he speak Michif?

A: He probably did, yes.

Y: Like you speak?
A: Yes that is how I learned.

Q: Was your mother Metis?
A: (nods yes)

Q: Can she speak Michif?
A: (nods yes)

Q: What language did your grandparents speak?
A: Probably the same, CREE.
Y: Your grandpa and grandma spoke CREE?
A: Yes, yes.

00:11:42

Q: Do you engage in hunting, fishing and gathering as part of your lifestyle?
Y: Like ah, fishing and hunting?
A: That's all we did. That's all we did.
Y: Right now?
A: No, no.

Q: How long have you been involved in hunting?
Y: Since you were small?
A: Since I was 10 I went with my dad, I wonder when I quite, how years ago since I last trapped.
Y: Hunting, like moose?
A: I just went hunting in the fall. I still do that because I can ride around not like in the past just snowshoes. (Smiles) We ride in a car and we're off.

Q: Where do you hunt?
Y: She talking about hunting?
A: Where she said?
Y: Where do you hunt?
A: Allover, especially in the past a person could go anywhere, but today you have to stay in the block only there. I never hunt here for a long time; I only hunt up south, now what's the name of that place, Diefenbaker?
Y: Lake Diefenbaker.
A: Yes.

Q: What did you, what did you hunt for?
Y: What did you hunt, moose?
A: Right here?
Y: Anywhere?
A: Anything, what are ever open, deer, moose, and things like that.

Q: Do you share what you, what you gather when you hunting, do you share that?
A: (nods yes)
Y: Do you give your kill to other people?
A: (nods yes)

Q: Do other people share with you?
A: (nods yes)
Y Do people give you?
A: From everywhere, especially right now.

Q: Why, why do people share?
Y: For the sake of it, so everybody can eat meat. It's good to give to people that can't get any. Right now I'm glad to be given some (smiles), because I can't get any kill myself. (Pauses) I would kill it if it entered my house. (Laughs)

00:15:11

Q: What times of the year are the best times to hunt?

Y: When is it good to hunt?

A: In the fall, the moose come for you, you don't have to, well in the spring if you canoe around you'll see one in the water. In the winter you have to wear snowshoes, deep snow.

End: 00:15:37:16

00:15:37

(Phone rings)

00:16:02

Start:
00:16:01:00

Q: Why do you hunt, what do you do with the meat?

Y: Why do you hunt?

A: To eat, I make dry meat that is why I hunt to eat. That's if I kill one, if I miss nobody eats. (Laughs)

Q: When were licenses first used for hunting, do you remember?

Y: Do you remember when you started to buy a license to hunt?

A: I don't remember, in the beginning we would be given a permit like in July, around the 15, I think it was the beginning of July we would get a permit so we didn't have to buy one. It was later I don't remember.

Y: Do you need permission to hunt in the past?

A: Long ago no, all of sudden later the time they started giving blocks that's when it started.

Q: Do you buy a license to hunt?

Y: Do you buy License?

A: For what?

Y: When you hunt?

A: Today I do, yes. Like in the fall I paid \$45.00.

00:17:37

(Conference between Yvonne, Clem & Kathy)

00:17:57

Q: Have you been involved in fishing?

Y: There talking about fishing, when did you start fishing, how many years?

A: I wonder how many years, I started fishing when I was 16, not with your grandfather. I would move to Buffalo in the winter, spring. I worked in building these housing so I quit fishing at that time, I gave everything away.

Q: What did you fish?

A: All over, sometimes up north.

Y: What kind of fish?

A: Whatever catches, anything that sells, that kind. All kinds are caught but I keep the ones that sell. I threw suckers away (smiles) nobody wants them.

Q: How did he fish did he use different methods?

Y: How did you fish?

A: What?

Y: With nets or something else?

A: Just nets.

Q: Why does he fish?

Y: Why do you fish, to eat or sell?

A: To sell, to make money so I can eat that's the reason I fished.

00:20:05

Q: Did he, did you every pick berries?

Y: They what to talk about berry picking, did you pick berries?

A: Always, I still do.

Q: What kinds of berries?

Y: What kind of berries do you pick?

A: All sorts, blueberries, and those other ones, what are they called cranberries, raspberries. All sorts whatever there is, that's what.

Q: Did he gather other things, like duck eggs or?

Y: What else did you pick, like berries, eggs thing like that?

A: In the past I picked eggs but not now.

Y: Do you remember anything else?

A: No nothing.

Y: Like medicine?

A: No I never pick that, I'm afraid to poison myself (laughs) I don't know it.

Q: Did he, muskeg tea?

Y: How about muskeg tea?

A: No I don't pick that. My grandfather picked all sorts of things to heal people with.

Q: Did anybody gather medicines?

Y: That's what he just mentioned, he said he never did just his grandpa.

End: 00:22:05:1

Q: I understand Mr. Daigneault was busy in his garden. Did you parents have a garden?

Y: Your mom and dad did they have a garden?

A: No, but my grandfather, my grandfather or my grandfathers did. The both of them always had a garden. We would also, only when we moved to Fort Black we grew a garden.

00:22:46

Q: We just what to talk about the food he has eaten over his lifetime, his diet.

Um, what kind of food do you prefer eating?

Y: What kinds of food to you like to eat?

A: Things from the bush, meat, moose, deer, beaver, duck, ptarmigan, rabbit, muskrat, beaver things like that.

Q: How often do you eat wild meat today?

Y: How many times today to you eat that kind?

A: When I get food from people that's the only time, but here I eat things like that, fish.

*Start
00:23:53:21*

Q: Have you taught your children the traditional practices of hunting, gathering all those different things you talk about, that your children?

Y: Did you teach your children about the way you lived?

A: Yes, especially the one that died accidentally he like to go with me, I would sometimes try to sneak off but he would catch me. He liked that life. They all went to school so they didn't go with me often.

00:24:39

Q: Um, This might be kind of repeating, but what territory would you and your family have used to practice these traditional things, is there a Daigneault territory?

Y: I do remember talking about that.

Q: Just land that they would traditional use year after Year.

Lilah: A place where only they would go to hunt, fish, trap.

Y: They what to know if you hunt at the same place each year?

A: When we got blocks we couldn't hunt beyond that, but in the past we would go anywhere, but today we can't.

(Conference between Lilah and Yvonne regarding fir blocks)

00:26:04

Q: Do you trap, do you do trapping?

A: Now?

Y: Yes.

A: No

Q: When he was young did he do trapping?

Y: When you were growing up?

A: I started trapping when I was 10, like I said earlier.

Q: What did you trap?

Y: What kind of animals?

A: Anything, mink, foxes, things like that, otter I don't know the English name, beaver, muskrat. The spring would be open for muskrat and beaver that's what we trapped.

Q: Where did you learn to trap?

Y: Who taught you?

A: My dad, which is why he took me out of school, to teach me.

Q: What territory did they use, what land did they trap on?

Y: Where did you?

A: At first it was the bombing range, which is where he first took me. When we got back we trapped around here. We would have to trap in certain areas that were designated to us.

00:27:55

Q: What did you do with the furs?

A: We sold them to buy food. Did she understand (laughs)?
(Laughter)

End: 00:28:11:50

Q: Um, can you talk a little about how people got around in those days, how did you get from one place to another?

Y: How did you visit and get around in the past?

A: Like what?

Y: Like visiting, trapping?

A: Dogs, all we had was dogs long ago, when we moved to Fort Black we finally got horses, but before that only dogs.

Y: Did you walk also or always with dogs?

A: When we first trapped we walked, we use dogs only when needed. I would snowshoe and sometimes run, we I go visiting. No car or ski-doo (laughs).

Q: Where have you traveled in your lifetime?

Y: Where did you visit?

A: Just around here, like when we stayed at Canoe River we would come to visit here. And we would also visit where my grandfather lived.

Y: Where else did you visit, like St. Anne?

A: When it's time to go we go there, today I visit like Saskatoon.

Y: That's what there asking.

A: Well, today it's no problem you get into a vehicle and when you arrive you get out, doesn't take long. I would never be able to walk to Saskatoon I would die half ways there (laughs).

Y: You visit Saskatoon, where else?

A: Where my family is like Leaf Rapids to.

00:30:36

Start: 00:30:36:18

Q: Did anyone in your family take script?

Y: Do you understand Script?

A: My dad, my dad must of got it when he was a child, my grandmother's dad got it, I can't remember how much they got when he died I think it was \$300.00 each, I don't know if that was all they got maybe some was in the bank is what she use to say. Just them we didn't get it.

Y: Your dad to?

A: My dad I don't know, but I know my dad's mom got it, my grandmother talked about this.

Q: Did he, does he remember any stories that were told about script at that time any stories?

Y: That what he was touching on, he was not directly involved. It's what his grandmother told him.

Q: Ok!

00:32:05

Q: Um, when he was going up maybe could he talk about the festivities the he remembered, the celebrations over his life time, like dances?

Y: They want to know if you can talk about, since the day you can remember any dances, weddings what did they do?

A: From when I can remember?

Y: If you can just talk a little about this.

A: When I was fishing in Buffalo we use to go to dances. Stan Mckay used to call the square dance (smiles). We would have dances here to^o. Sometimes I would go.

Lilah: What about Christmas, New years?

Y: What did they do long ago?

A: I remember they would gather here because it's the only place that had mass, they would have a feast. This one time I ate with an old man called upsis (little) a Dene person he told me to get some jam so I went to buy some we had jam and rabbit, just like today we have cranberries and turkey.

Y: And weddings the same?

A: Yes the same. Who ever got invited would go. The only difference is a long time ago we wouldn't dress up fancy. When I got married it was 6 o'clock in the morning than went home with horse. We had a feast and dance in Beauval and than in the spring we had a dance and feast in Fort Black, I hauled people by barge. That's what we called fun.

end: 00:35:20!

00:35:24

Start: 00:35:24:18

Q: I want to talk a little about the bombing range, do you remember when the bombing range was set up?

Y: Do you remember when they started that?

A: I just don't remember what year, but I did get asked to leave. I left at 6 o'clock in the evening to go fishing there I walked all night, when I got there the officer that gave me a license here ask for it back over there. I told him I have to fish first since you already gave me a license you'll take it next year. He said if you don't give me somebody else will come to get it. So I gave it to him I didn't want to go to jail. I don't remember what year; I was a partner with Frank, Frank Corrigal.

Q: Did anyone, did he use to use that land for part of his hunting, fishing and trapping?

Y: He kinda said that already.

Q: Yes, I kinda remember that.

00:36:48

Q: Um, did you have a cabin in the range?

A: Where?

Y: At the bombing range.

A: Yes, we had some there around there I forget the names of the lakes.

Y: Houses?

A: Houses, I had a house in Canoe Lake that is where I was when I was sent back home, I had two houses in the range too. Not houses like this but cabins.

Q: Does he remember, did any body come to meet him about setting up the bombing range?

Y: Did anybody talk about this or you found out when they took your license away?

A: No, that's the only time, I was told that they were given money but I couldn't go because I was busy working here. A plane landed not for long, handed out checks I don't know if I had one there.

00:38:08

Q: Did they meet with anyone else, does he remember meetings happening with anyone else?

Y: Do you remember if meetings took place because of this?

A: No.

Y: Who told you about payment?

A: They come to pay, my grandmothers brothers told her, they were there, they told me I should of went but it was to late. People that lived there told me that there was reason for me to show up.

Q: Did he ever get compensation from that land?

Y: He was just kind of telling about that he already answered that.

Q: He never did.

Lilah: He didn't he said but others did. He was too late for the plane.

Q: Who else use to use that land in the bombing range?

Y: Who else use that?

A: A lot of people from here. I use to see them there. Like Abraham Ratt, Mootayee, Flamber, I don't know if these were there real names. I saw a lot of people come there. Emil Daigneault too, he was partners with my dad, he lived with us there.

End: 00:39:51

Q: Maybe the last thing I'll ask. Is there anything you can remember about your wife's family, where they were from any relatives that she had that you ever visited with?

Lilah: He mentioned all that.

A: She left for nothing she should have stayed here.

Y: Are we going to be interviewing her still?

Q: Yes.

A: Its better like that, I can't answer those I'll be lying.

Q: Ok thank you very much.

Y: That's it.

A: That's it.

Clem: That's it, thank you.

00:40:42

End of Interview