

Chief Picheito Tanner. (d. 1872)

Picheito Tanner was the eldest son of John “Falcon” Tanner (The White Indian) and his Saulteaux wife, Red Sky of the Morning¹. John Falcon Tanner worked for the American Fur Company and in the 1820s was employed as an interpreter at Mackinac and then Sault Sainte Marie. Picheito was born circa 1800 at Red Lake, Minnesota Territory. There were two daughters as well, but nothing is known of them. Picheito was the Saulteaux chief of the Portage la Prairie Band. Archdeacon Cochran states that when he arrived in Portage la Prairie in the early 1850s both Picheito (Image) and Atakawinin (Gambler) were living there as permanent residents (Garrioch, 1923: 94).

The historical record indicates that Chief Picheito Tanner moved west into the Assiniboine River valley, from Portage La Prairie very soon after his half-brother Rev. James Tanner was killed in 1870. Picheito was known at various times as Little Pheasant, Pheasant Tail or Rump, Le Croup de Pheasant and *Nahawananan*.

Picheito married Marie Jane Ledoux, the daughter of Jean Baptiste Ledoux and Madeleine Wehnashk in 1836 at Turtle Mountain. Marie was born in 1820 at Turtle Mountain. Their children were:

- Alexander Tanner born circa 1840. Alexander married Caroline Bone.
- Jean “Gambler” Tanner born circa 1842. Gambler Tanner was also known as, *Atakawinin* or *Otahaoman* or possibly James. Hugh McKay, former Chief at Waywayseecappo, says that the correct spelling of Gambler's Indian name is *Odit-ta-gay-win-nin*.

Picheito and Marie separated sometime before 1850, he was then married to Angelique Nesko-te-koway. Their daughter Angelique Tanner was born circa 1850. She married Joseph Deschenaux in 1869 at St. Boniface.

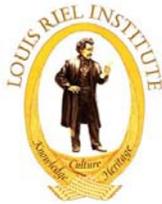
Signatory to Treaty 1

Picheito was a leader of his mother’s people, the Red Lake Saulteaux, who lived in the White Horse Plains, Portage la Prairie Delta area. Picheito lived in the largest house in Portage la Prairie, near the main road leading into the settlement (presently the corner of Crescent Ave. and Broadway). He had many souvenirs in his home, such as glass candlesticks and mechanical toys, which he brought back from his many trips to the United States. He was known as a man with a taste for elegance and comfort. He is thought to have been the Chief, *Nahawananan*, who signed Treaty No. 1 on August 3rd 1871. Sometime after this, he took his band to the Fort Qu’Appelle region and died there around 1872. His chieftanship thereby passed to his son Gambler Tanner.

¹ John Falcon Tanner subsequently married Theresa Lavallee about 1805. Theresa was born about 1780/1790. They had the following children:

- Rev. James Tanner was born about 1805. He died on 10 Dec 1870.
- Joseph "Ke-she-sha-way "Tanner" was born about 1805/1815.
- Martha Ann Tanner was born about 1808 in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario.

During the 1870s, Picheito's other sons attached themselves to a group of their Metis relatives who were making a last attempt at the buffalo robe trade. They followed the buffalo robe trade west to the vicinity of Buffalo Lake Alberta, then south into Montana. They were eventually forced out of Montana by US troops (except for the Plains-Ojibway who remained on Rocky Boy's reserve). A number of these hunters then congregated at the Cypress Hills near Fort Walsh. A number of Tanners appear on the Treaty Annuity Paylists at Maple Creek Saskatchewan. The Tanners are reported to have moved from there to Silver Creek to join their brother Gambler in the early 1880s. Three other families also moved to Gambler Reserve from Maple Creek about the same time: namely, Jandrew, Kakaneeshik and Maqua (Black Bear). Cowessess and the balance of the Plains Ojibway were eventually persuaded to move from Cypress Hills to the Qu'Appelle Valley because the American government was pressuring Canadian authorities not to settle them along the US border.



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