

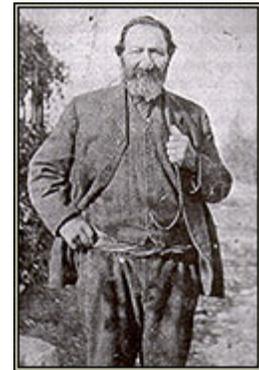
Peter Erasmus. (1833-1931)



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Peter Erasmus was born on June 27, 1833 at Winnipeg, the son of Peter Erasmus Sr. (Danish) and Catherine Budd. He married Caroline Bruneau, the daughter of Pierre Bruneau and Marie Mistatem in 1860 at Edmonton, then married Charlotte Jackson in 1865, then married Marguerite Stanley the daughter of Jacob Stanley in 1882 at White Fish Lake. Peter and Caroline had a son William. Peter and Charlotte had eight children and Peter and Marguerite had three children.

Peter was the nephew of Reverend Henry Budd, the first ordained Native minister in the Anglican church. He was chosen as one of the few children in the next generation who would be offered a college education in return for dedicating their lives to the ministry. After the death of his father in 1849, Erasmus went to work with his uncle, the Reverend Henry Budd, at Christ Church Anglican Mission at The Pas. There, he continued his education while teaching and translating religious texts into Cree. He reportedly spoke Cree and five other Aboriginal languages. He then worked assisting Reverend Woolsey, a Methodist minister, working out of Edmonton. He acted as guide and interpreter for Woolsey more or less continuously until 1862 when he was replaced by Mr. Monkman. While he was employed by Rev. Woolsey, the Palliser expedition borrowed him to assist Dr. James Hector.



His married life was spent in the community of Whitefish Lake, east of Victoria Settlement. While a member of that community he was asked, by Mistawasis (Big Child) and Ah-tuk-a-kup (Star Blanket), to translate for them for the upcoming treaty six. They made the request a year ahead of time, and when the Commissioners were on their way to Fort Carlton in 1876, they sent their sons to bring Erasmus. He was subsequently hired by the Canadian government to act as an interpreter and continued to work intermittently for the government in various capacities until his retirement in 1912. He remarried in 1882, and with his second wife, Mary Stanley, had three more children.



Peter Erasmus House, built in 1861 along the Victoria Trail now at Fort Edmonton Park.

Reference:

Peter Erasmus, as told to Henry Thompson. *Buffalo Days and Nights*. Calgary: Glenbow Institute, 1999.