

Christine Misponas, Tape 1

Summary

I was born in Sandy Point, which is five miles east of Ile a la Crosse across the lake. My parents' names were Marie Jeanne and Ambrose Morin. Our mother was born in Sandy Point, but our brother, I think, was born in Buffalo Narrows. I remember everything they taught me. I hauled wood and did everything. We lived in Buffalo Narrows and from there, we moved to Sandy Point. There were eleven of us in the family. Mom lost one child while in Buffalo and one here. We hauled water, wood, made bannock outside. The boys also hauled wood from the forest. They would chop wood in the forest (bush). They snared rabbits, a lot of things. They would come to visit from as far away as Pinehouse. Joe Misponas. He's from Pinehouse. His family came from there. I met him at Sucker Point. I had eleven children. I lost five of them, three girls and two boys. My mother, father and grandmother taught me to tan hide. I used to go with them. My mother, father and grandmother taught me to tan hide. I used to go with them. I do sewing now, but a long time ago I used to wash by hand (demonstrates), hauled wood, milked cows, picked berries. We never ran out of things that needed to be done. Yes, we'd play ball. Everyone got along. Nothing much. We would eat and then we'd travel with our grandfather. We'd paddle a long ways. We'd have ducks and things like that. They would kill a cow and we'd have meat. We paddled across the lake to the church to get married. Nothing, we just made a wooden box and buried them. We didn't have a wake. We'd take it to church for burial. In Sandy Point I used to dance, but not anymore. My father used to play the fiddle. We would eat stuff from the bush. Not much. We bought flour for bannock. No bread. We made our own bread. Yes, they'd tell us stories, but not very often. We never had time to sit down. Mom was always busy, washing, cooking, keeping and raising kids. Buckley and them stayed there for a while. They would talk about the elders moving north. They would go north to trap. They would come home around Easter with their dog teams. They would leave in the fall before freeze up in a boat. Yes, they would do everything. They'd fish and dry the fish to use for survival. They would use everything of the animal. They would even use the bones. We would crack the bones and use the bone marrow for fat. We would dry meat so the meat wouldn't spoil. At the beginning, we lived where my grand father was living. (Sandy Point Bay) Yes, at Sandy Point towards the meadow. Then we moved to the point. My father moved. I would cook, wash and sew. In winter, I would, was across the lake. I would mop floors, wash clothes. Sometimes I would take the police's shirts home to wash. I worked hard. I would buy food. Things were not very expensive like today. Yes, I trapped. I'd trap lynx. I would go alone when Joe would leave on his trap line; I would trap around where I lived. My Dad, my Uncle George would help him. They bought the lumber. It would be delivered. When they'd fish in the winter, the buyers would deliver the lumber and collect the fish. Everyone cooperated with each

other. My uncle, Vital (Morin) fought in the war. They made their own clothes. We didn't buy dresses like this. You'd sew them by hand. Didn't have a sewing machine. They made those too, (moccasins) except jackets. Those they bought. They hauled freight from Meadow Lake. I still sew. I started to do beadwork when I was ten years old and I'm still doing it. I make moccasins, mitts. I have lots of mitts. (Showing beadwork) They (parents) said the rosary every day. Yes. We grew potatoes, vegetables and everything.

Christine Misponas, Tape 2

Summary

No, I was about to start in Buffalo when our Dad moved back. We stayed there a while. I was ten years old when we moved by horse. We made only one trip, because we did not have much stuff. Not like nowadays; you'd need many trucks to move. I understand it, English. If I had gone to school, I would have understood it better. My grandmother (Nohkom) and that would be your great-grandmother (Kocapan). Abraham Maurice's wife used to be a midwife. Her name was Adeline. She used to deliver babies. Picture of Christine's (maternal) grandparents, Louis Lariviere and Marguerite (nee) Roy.