

## **William Morrison:** (1785-1866)

William, known as White-Bear or Shagahnansheenee or the "Little Englishman", was the son of Alan Morison and Josepha (Jane) Wadden. She was the Metisse daughter of Jean Etienne Wadden/Wadin who was killed on the English River in 1780 - he was married to an Ojibwe woman. Her sister was married to 1st. to Alexander McKay and 2nd. to Dr. John McLoughlin.

William first married to an Ojibwe (Pillager) woman (d. after 1813), 2nd. to Julia Roussain (d. after 1826) and 3rd. to Elizabeth Kittson (d. 1864). His children were Georgiana (m.Demaray), Joseph (Aygans/Aygos) (1809/13-1880; married 1st. to Aygojebinace/Aygojebenais and 2nd. To Odubenunequay), Richard (Dekaince) (abt.1813-abt.1870) (married 1st. to Ahsowaynegun and 2nd. To Ogmahwubequay), George(Sahquahday) (married Nubunnayaonahquodequay), Waymittegosheence (married Mindwmoyien), Waymittegoshequay (married Chegeshig), William (d. abt. 1850) and Donald George (d.1898). The mother of William's first wife took the children about 1826 when William intended to take her grand children east with him when he retired to eastern Canada.

In January of 1802, William was hired by the XYCo at Berthier, Quebec for five years. He was employed at the Fond du Lac Dept. until 1805 when his company was bought out by the Northwest Co. He remained (1805-1816) employed at the Fond du Lac Dept. under the new owners until the American Fur Co. took over and the Fond du Lac Department became apart of AFCo's, South West Co (1816-1818).

In 1818 the Fond du Lac Department. became apart of the AFCo (the SWCo name was dropped) and William was employed there until his retirement in 1826. While in the Fond du Lac Department William wintered at; Leech Lake (1802-03), headwaters of the Wild Rice River [near the source of the Mississippi] (1803-04), Le Haut de la Riviere Rouge (1804-05), Upper Red River (1805-06). The chief agent of the Fond du Lac Department for the NWCo. from 1804 to 1812 was Hugh McGillis, who maintained the headquarters at Leech Lake. In 1812 (the beginnings of the British/American war) McGillis was transferred to the Michipicoten post and James Grant became William's boss and chief agent of the Fond du Lac Department.

By 1815 James Grant is in charge of the Leech Lake headquarters and Morrison at the Sandy Lake sub-post. In June of 1816 Grant sends Morrison and Eustace Roussain at the head of assembled Ojibwe warriors and voyageurs to Rainy Lake to go against the Lord Selkirk and his men; this was ordered by NWCo's McLeod, Henry and McLoughlin. On June 19, 1816 Cuthbert Grant of the NWCo. was transporting pemmican around Fort Douglas with a force of Metis and when accosted by the Governor Semple of the Colony, shot and killed 21 including the Governor Semple. Lord Selkirk organized a force in the east and taking his main force toward the NWCo's headquarters at Ft. William, sent P.C. Pambrun and Michel McDonnell with a smaller force through the Fond du Lac Dept. On September 9, 1816 Selkirk's brigade captured Grant, his clerks (including Morrison) and voyageurs at the Sandy Lake sub-post.

Grant, Roussain and Morrison were taken as prisoners to Fort William; where Lord Selkirk had already captured the NWCo. headquarters. In October they leave Fort William with an escort for the east but at Sault Ste. Marie they escape into U.S. territory. Morrison and Roussain arrive back in Fond du Lac on December 6, 1816 and Morrison takes charge of the Department

William retired from the fur-trade in 1826 returning east to live near Berthier.



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