

Donald Whitford. (1843-1927)

Donald Whitford was born June 10, 1843 at Portage la Prairie, the son of James Whitford (b. 1792) and Mary Nancy Spence (Métis). Donald spoke five languages and worked with the Hudson's Bay Company as an interpreter and a fur freighter. His uncle Phillip operated the Hudson's Bay posts at Boss Hill and Tail Creek. Donald and his family were with the Methodist Mission at Pigeon Lake, and along with the McDougall's subsequently went to Morley to establish a mission with the Mountain Nakoda Bands. Their infant son Charles died there in 1873. In 1874 they were at Buffalo Lake with Samson's Band and settled with the Boss Hill Métis community. They were subsequently travelling with the Pigeon Lake band.

Donald married Margaret "Peggy" Cayen born July 5, 1853 in the Rocky Mountains, the daughter of Paul and Marie Cayen,¹ in the spring of 1870 at Victoria Crossing. Peggy was one of many Cree who were placed with the "Edmonton Stragglers" where she was Band member #27. She subsequently left treaty and took Métis scrip.

Donald and Margaret had the following children:

- Colin James, born May 5, 1871 at Victoria, died 1889 at Bears Hills.
- Charles, born 1873 at Pigeon Lake, died 1873 at Morley.
- John, born 1875 at Pigeon Lake, died 1875 at Hand Hills.
- Flora (Chalmers), born 1876 at Tail Creek, died 1963.
- Anne (Foureyes), born 1878 at Battle River.
- George, born November 10, 1888
- William, born 1881 at Pigeon Lake died at Bears Hills 1889.
- Samuel, born December 6, 1890.
- Eliza (Little Voice), born 1883 at Bears Hills.
- Ellen, born May 10, 1893.
- Nancy, born December 25, 1895.

The family was enumerated at Tail Creek during the 1901 Census. In their home were:

Whitford Donald M Head M Jun 10 1843 58, b. MB
Whitford Margret F Wife M Jul 5 1853 48
Whitford Ann F Daughter S Jun 4 1872 22
Whitford Eliza F Daughter S Jul 14 1883 18
Whitford Cathrine E. F Daughter S Jun 12 1885 14
Whitford George M Son S Nov 10 1888 13
Whitford Samuel M Son S Dec 6 1890 11
Whitford Margret F Granddaughter S Aug 1 1899 2
Whitford William M Grandson S Jan 2 1901 6 mts.
Whitford Ellen F Daughter S May 10 1893 8
Whitford Nancey F Daughter S Dec 25 1895 6

¹ Her father was Chief Samson "Kanatakasew Sikachim" of Hobbema.

1901 Census of Canada
Subdistrict: Tail Creek, ALBERTA, THE TERRITORIES
District Number: 202
Subdistrict Number: r(4)

Family Scrip

Cayen, Marguerite - Concerning her claim as a head of family - Address, Battle River, Peace Hills - Born, 1853, Rocky Mountains near Calgary - Father, Paul Cayen, (Métis) - Mother, Marie, (Métis) - Married, spring of 1870 to Daniel Whitford at Victoria - Children living, five (names on husband's declaration) - Children deceased, two - Scrip for \$160 - Claim 1020.

Whitford, Donald; heir to his deceased children: James, born: May, 1871 at Victoria; died: 1889 at Bears Hills; Charles, born: May, 1873 at Pigeon Lake; died: 1873 at Morley; John, born: February, 1875 at Pigeon Lake; died: 1875 at Hand Hills; William, born: October, 1881 at Pigeon Lake; died: 1889 at Bear Hills; address: Buffalo Lake; father: Donald Whitford (Métis and deponent); mother: Peggy Cayan (Métis); scrip cert.: form F, no. 1336, James; scrip cert.: form F, no. 1338, Charles; scrip cert.: form F, no. 1340, John; scrip cert.: form F, no. 1342, William; claim no. 3300.

Chalmerson [sic], Flora; address: Buffalo Lake; claim no. 3274; born: 1876 at Buffalo Lake; father: Donald Whitford (Métis); mother: Peggy Cayenne (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 2532.

Foureyes, Anne; address: Bears Hills Reserve; claim no. 3286; born: 1878 at Battle River; father: Donald Whitford (Métis); mother: Peggie Cayenne (Métis).

Little Voice, Eliza; address: Willow Creek; claim no. 3288; born: February, 1883 at Bears Hills; father: Donald Whitford (Métis); mother: Peggy Cayen (Métis); married: May, 1900 on Hobbema Reserve to Little Voice; scrip issued for 240 acres; file ref. 946487 on 127993A.

No 138
 Registered
 by W. Anderson
 Ind. Agt.

To all whom it may concern
Take Notice

This is to Certify that Margaret
 Whitford (nee Margaret Cayen) a halfbreed
 formerly taking Treaty as No 23 of Edmonton
 Stragglers, having complied this day with
 the terms of Section 4 Act 47 Victoria -
 Chap 27. has ceased to be a Treaty
 Indian as defined in the said Treaty

St Albert A.S.
 24th June 1885

W. Anderson
 Indian Agent

Amount of amt paid
 1877 to 1884
 \$47.00



Compiled and Edited by Lawrence Barkwell
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