

Daniel Daigneault

Summary

My name is Daniel Daigneault. I'm not sure. Probably here in Ile a la Crosse. (Sakitawak) I was born July 15, 1923. When I was a child we used to live in Canoe River with my grandfather. I was about to start school in Beauval. I was living with my grandfather, but my father remarried and he came to get me. We lived in the bush. I was living in Beauval when my Mom passed away. I lived with my grandfather for two years, then my Dad come and got me. In the spring, we'd come to here and then back to the bombing range where my Dad trapped. When he was gone trapping (at above mentioned), we would stay at South Bay for a few years. That was when the measles epidemic... I don't remember when that actually was. At that time we moved to Fort Black. I was fourteen years old at that time we moved. We moved because my grandfather was sick. He lost many of his children and grandchildren at that time. That was when we moved. I've been married for fifty-eight years. Wife's name is Victoria. Her last name was Durocher. She is from Beauval. Yes. I have many children. I have twelve children. My parents' names were Abraham and Alexina. My mother's last name was Bouvier. At first they lived at Canoe River and then at South Bay. My (paternal) grandparents' names were Prosper and Josephine (skwew). They were from here, although my grandmother's Dad Magloire Maurice was from the south somewhere. My (maternal) grandparents' names were Frances Bouvier and I think it was Marie Rose Laliberte. His mother was from Green Lake. His father was from Black Lake. That's grandfather's Dad. I speak Cree. A little French and English. Q: Do you speak Michif? A: Yeah. I picked it up from listening to others speaking the language. Dad (he) probably spoke (Michif). They (grandparents) spoke Cree. That was all we did (fishing and trapping). Since I was ten years old I went with my Dad. It was awhile since I trapped. This fall I went hunting. I still go hunting. It's easier just to get in the car and go. Not like before. You had to wear snowshoes. In the past, we could hunt anywhere, but now you're restricted to the block. I haven't hunted here for a while. I go south around Diefenbaker Lake. We'd hunt for anything when it's open season, deer, moose and things like that. It's nice when someone gives you meat. It's good to give to people who don't get any meat, especially now, because I can't kill anything. Although if the deer or moose would enter the house, I would kill it. In the fall is the best time. The moose just comes to you. In the summertime is a good time too. When you're canoeing, you'll see moose in water. In winter you'll have to wear snowshoes to hunt. To eat. I also make dry meat. That's if I kill one. If I don't kill one, nobody eats. I don't remember. In the beginning, we would get a permit on July 15. I'm sure it was actually at the beginning of July we're given a permit so we don't have to buy a license. It was later that we had to buy licenses to hunt, but I can't remember when. I buy a license now, for instance I bought one in the fall. It was forty-five dollars. I wonder how many years. I started fishing when I

was sixteen years old with my Dad and grandfather. We'd fish in winter, fall and summer. I eventually quit fishing when I worked maintenance on houses. I gave all my fishing equipment away. I fished all over. Sometimes up north. Whatever we caught. The kind that would sell. All types of fish was caught, but we only kept the ones we would see. I threw suckers away. Nobody wanted those. We used nets to fish. I fished so I could make money so we could eat. That's the reason I fished. Always, even now. All sorts, blueberries, cranberries and raspberries. Whatever is in season that's what we'd pick. In the past I picked duck eggs, but I don't do that anymore. I don't pick plants (herbs), but my grandfather did to heal people. My grandfather had gardens. They both always had gardens. When we moved to Fort Black, then we planted a garden. Things from the bush, such as moose meat, deer, beaver, caribou, muskrat, duck, ptarmigan, rabbit, wild meat and fish. Yes, I did, especially the one that died accidentally. He liked going with me trapping and fishing. I would try to sneak away, but he always caught me. He liked that life. The other attended school so they didn't often come on the trap line. We would get blocks where we'd hunt and trap. We couldn't go beyond that, but in the past we could go anywhere to hunt. We trapped for anything such as mink, foxes, otter, beaver and muskrat. In the spring we'd trap muskrat and beavers. My Dad taught me to trap. That's why he took me out of school. At first he took me to the bombing range and then when we'd return from there, we'd trap around here in the designated area we were given. A long time ago we used dogs to go on the trap line. It was only when we moved to Fort Black that we got horses, but before that it was only dogs. When we first started trapping, we walked. Dogs are used only when needed. I would snowshoe and sometimes run when I went visiting. Today they have cars and skidoos. In olden day when we were living in Canoe River, we'd come to Ile a la Crosse to visit and we'd visit where my grandfather lived. Nowadays it's no problem to go places. You just get into a vehicle. I'd never make it to Saskatoon walking. My Dad must have gotten it when he was young. My grandfather's got it. I don't know how much he got when he died. I think about \$300.00 each. I don't know if my Dad received the scrip, but I know my Dad's mom got it. She used to talk about it. I remember when I was fishing at Buffalo, they would have a dance and I would go. Stan McKay would be square dance caller. I would sometimes attend dances around here. I remember we'd gather around here. This was the only place that celebrated mass. We would have a feast. I remember this old Dene man nicknamed Apisis. He asked me to get him some jam, so I went to buy some. He ate the jam with his rabbit just like we use cranberry sauce when we eat turkey. It was the same. Whoever got invited would go to the wedding. They certainly didn't get all dressed like they do now. When I got married, it was 6:00 a.m. and right after the wedding we had to return to Fort Black. From there, we went to Beauval and we had a dance there. That summer we had a dance at Fort Black. A lot of people came by boat and it was a lot of fun. Yes, we lived around here by the lakes, but I don't remember the names of the lakes. I had a house at Canoe Lake. That was where I was sent back. At the bombing range we had a cabin. No. That was the only time. They were

being given money, but I was unable to go, because I was busy working. A plane landed and handed out cheques, but I didn't get any. There were a lot of people who used that and Amable Montagne, Flambert, Emil Daigneault, Abraham Ratt. Emil was partners with my Dad. He lived with us.