

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: PHILOMENE GAMBLE
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: ROSTHERN,
SASKATCHEWAN
INTERVIEW LOCATION: ROSTHERN,
SASKATCHEWAN
TRIBE/NATION: CREE
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 03/08/84
INTERVIEWER: BRENDA ARNAULT
INTERPRETER:
TRANSCRIBER: HEATHER YAWORSKI
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& BATOCHÉ CENTENARY CORP.
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- most of this interview is in Cree, with English words interspersed

Brenda: March 8, 1984, I'm doing an interview with Philomene Gamble. Where was your mom, your mom and dad where were they from?

Philomene: My dad (Cree) the other reserve, and (Cree) Reserve. (Cree) I don't know if (Cree). And I don't even know, he had his brothers and sisters there.

Brenda: Does this mean that...

Philomene: And my (inaudible), Johnny Sutherland (Cree). That smoke.

Brenda: And were they Cree?

Philomene: Cree, yeah.

Brenda: So where was she from, Montana?

Philomene: She was in Battleford. That I can't tell where she came from. She was in Battleford School, she was an orphan in Battleford School. (Cree). His parents (Cree) English names like they have. (Cree). And anyways his parents (Cree) smoke (Cree).

Brenda: When did they move from North Battleford?

Philomene: North Battleford, that was, I don't know, (Cree). I don't know nothing about that (Cree) in our reserve. There was how many brothers, there was five brothers ahead of me. (Cree) the next Thursday he was dead already. (Cree).

Brenda: When was that about, what year?

Philomene: (Cree). What year was that?

Brenda: Were you a young girl when you dad passed away?

Philomene: I was a young girl, yes.

Brenda: Before you were married?

Philomene: I got married twice. My first husband (Cree) he was a (Cree). My second one was Gamble. (Cree). I'll show you my (inaudible) my second one (Cree), my second husband that was (Cree).

Brenda: Where was Craft from? What was his first name?

Philomene: Ben, Ben Craft. (Cree) in our reserve (Cree) in Touchwood Hills. (Cree).

Brenda: What was your maiden name?

Philomene: Sutherland. (Cree) Robert Thomas. (Cree) Robert his wife Emma (?) that was my sister and Florence (?), there was two sisters (inaudible).

Brenda: And George Thomas is he, was he a white man, or was he...

Philomene: George Thomas?

Brenda: George Thomas, yeah. Metis or...

Philomene: (Cree).

Brenda: Robert Thomas?

Philomene: Robert Thomas (?), (Cree). (talks in Cree) Robert Thomas (Cree).

Brenda: How about when you were a little girl? That would be -- you're 76 now?

Philomene: I'll be 77.

Brenda: 1920.

Philomene: We used to have our house in the north pasture (Cree), that's years and years ago. (Cree) and I was 6 years old. (Cree) at the old school. The time of that new school there was an old school in the (inaudible) Maple Creek (Cree). My two brothers are going at the same time in the (inaudible). They were older than me. I was just 6 (?).

Brenda: How long did you go to school then?

Philomene: I just, I went to school 1930, I just stayed till (Cree). I was 15 (Cree). My first husband there. I was 17 (Cree). My second one, my first one (Cree) my first husband I never used to go with them (Cree) at that school. (Cree).

Brenda: (Talks in Cree).

Philomene: (Cree) your parents, yeah. (Cree). I was 17 years old (Cree) my second husband. Yeah, that was my choice.

Brenda: (Talks in Cree).

Philomene: (Cree) family allowance, they used to use (Cree). (Cree) for flour and lard a piece. I used to snare rabbits, gophers and (inaudible) eh, (Cree) prairie chickens (Cree). It was the first house in (Cree), it was a log house. (Cree) we mud that from outside (Cree), that was our roof and (inaudible). We didn't even have any floor, cardboards (Cree). The first winter (Cree) I used flour bags on the window. That was our windows. And we were happy. (Cree), beds, and (inaudible). That's not happiness. (Cree) and old kitchen stove, (Cree).

Brenda: (Talks in Cree) your family, (Cree) when you were younger, (Cree)?

Philomene: (Cree) everything wild (Cree). (Cree) milk, canned milk that's the only thing. (Cree) apples, rice and raisins (Cree).

Brenda: (Cree)?

Philomene: (Cree) Jacob Johnsons from (Cree). (Cree) it was so sacred to them (Cree) Carlton ferry up the mountains (Cree) hills, big hills by the river (Cree). (Cree) high blood pressure, (Cree) not like today. (Cree) they have no respect

(Cree). I know it's very common (Cree). That's where our kids suffers. (Cree).

Brenda: (Cree)?

Philomene: (Cree) Catholic religion (Cree) reserve. (Cree).

Brenda: (Cree)?

Philomene: (Cree) liquor. (Cree) 1979. (Cree) in houses. (Cree) a little school and a big school (Cree).

Brenda: (Cree).

Philomene: That's good, you're supposed to sit down that floor, on the ground I mean. (Cree) that's on the trees, (Cree).

Brenda: (Cree) your family (Cree)?

Philomene: (Cree).

Brenda: (Cree).

Philomene: (Cree).

Brenda: (Cree) young people (Cree)?

Philomene: (Cree).

Brenda: Did you go berry picking too?

Philomene: Yeah, (Cree) saskatoon berries and (Cree) little pancakes, that's (Cree).

Brenda: (Cree)?

Philomene: (Cree) a bush Indian, he is Cree Indian (Cree). (Cree) she's making a Cree history (Cree). (Cree) dances, powwows in front of your tent (Cree).

Brenda: (Cree)?

Philomene: (Cree) the old life if far better (Cree). (Cree) there's lots of kids in (Cree).

(END OF SIDE A)

Philomene: (Cree) that's the oldest one (Cree). My youngest one is 35 years old. (Cree) whenever he has a chance (Cree).

Brenda: Is this your family coming in?

Philomene: That's my nephew (Cree).

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