

METIS SCRIP: COUPONS, APPLICATIONS AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

In 1870, the Métis children of the Red River Settlement were promised a land grant by the Manitoba Act. A few years later, their parents were made eligible to receive scrip coupons valued at 160 dollars. Subsequently, the Dominion Land Act gave consideration to Métis claims outside of Manitoba. Between 1885-1924, thousands of Métis individuals appeared before traveling commissions in order to apply for scrip. Many of the different kinds of documents associated with the Northwest scrip system are displayed here on these glass panels.

The scrip system necessitated the production of many documents, creating a large and complicated paper trail. The flowchart to the right provides the details of the process for Métis grantees claiming scrip coupons and then the use of coupons to obtain title to land. On the face of the documents, many clues allow the reader to connect with prairie history. A small selection of the approximately 13,000 Northwest scrip applications are displayed here on the glass panels.

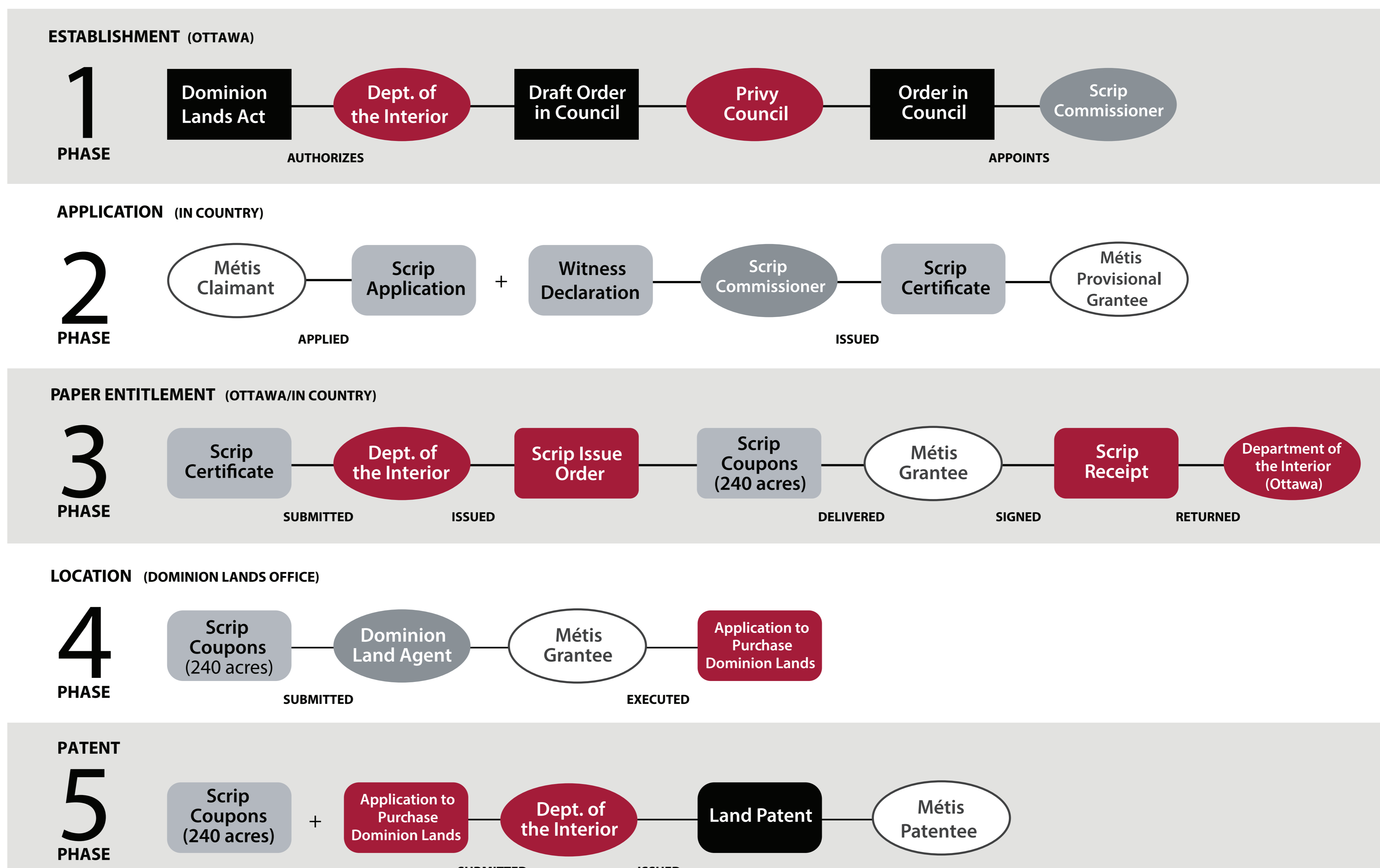
The term scrip refers to a certificate that entitles an individual to something of value, in this case a grant of land. According to government officials then and now, Métis scrip, officially known as “Halfbreed” scrip, was issued to Métis people with the intent of “extinguishing” Indian title by granting land or money coupons to individual Métis people, including children and even the heirs of deceased persons.

Until 1930, the federal government through the Interior Department controlled the granting and sale of Dominion Lands, and consequently, were responsible for devising and administering the Northwest scrip system. With the allocation of Dominion Lands, massive grants were made available to the Hudson’s Bay Company and railway corporations for sale and speculation. Only about half of the surveyed township lands were allocated for homesteading. In theory, scrip could be used by Métis grantees to obtain title to Homestead Lands.

The applications for scrip are a detailed, unique, and fascinating historical record. Today, these documents are a key source for most Métis family genealogies. A successful application would result in a certificate, and in turn, the certificate would be exchanged for coupons. Not unlike stocks and bonds, scrip coupons were printed on high quality banknote paper. The redemption of coupons for land was limited to the surveyed southern prairies and involved several million acres/dollars.

After 1885, the Government of Canada offered Métis claimants in what is now Saskatchewan, Alberta, northern Manitoba, and the Northwest Territories two types of coupons: land or money. The award for children totaled 240 acres/dollars; the adult claimant award was increased from 160 to 240 acres/dollars in 1899. Land Scrip was usually doled out as two separate coupons in units of 80 and 160 acres and could be exchanged at par for Homestead Lands. Money Scrip was granted in units of 80 or 160

LAND SCRIP - THE GENERAL MODEL, ca. 1906



Land Scrip – The General Model, ca. 1906 Source: Frank Tough and Erin McGregor, *Métis Scrip: Treaty Ten Scrip Commission Commemorative Analysis*, 3rd edition. Edmonton: Métis Aboriginal Title Research Initiative – X, 2008: 4.

dollars, and could easily be redeemed—by the bearer—for Homestead Lands. However, the acreage that could be obtained with a money scrip coupon decreased as the price of Dominion Lands increased.

Since Homestead Lands could be purchased with cash, Money Scrip was destined to be sold at less than its face value. Unless significantly discounted, Money Scrip coupons held no advantage for a buyer interested in owning a homestead. Although the prices paid are not well documented, it would appear that money scrip was sold for half its face value.

As the price of Dominion Lands increased, a preference for Land Scrip developed. With an active scrip market, most of the certificates and coupons ended up in the hands of property speculators. Many settlers seeking to

obtain Dominion Lands without fulfilling the complicated homestead duties made use of the scrip system. Dominion Officials had knowledge of how the system was being gamed. Simply put, paper became land.

In theory, Land Scrip should have initiated a chain of title in favour of the Métis grantee. With respect to the use of Land Scrip coupons, the Métis grantee was required to go in person to a Dominion Land Office to pick out a homestead. After picking out a specific acreage, an application for a letter patent would be submitted to Ottawa. If everything was in order, the Interior Department would approve the homestead application and issue the patent establishing ownership. However, Métis grantees rarely picked out a specific homestead in the Dominion Land Office partly because this lawful requirement often entailed traveling great distances between home communities and the land

office. Instead, the grantees were impersonated; their presumed interest in the land was obtained by others through forgery and fraud.

Clearly, this system did not create a collective land base for the Métis. For decades, the failed relationship between Métis people and the Government of Canada was symbolized by the scrip system. Today, some believe that the main problem of the grants to the Métis after 1870 was a delay in implementation by the federal government, while others can point to dispossession achieved by sharp dealings, impersonation, and fraud.

-The Métis Archival Project (MAP) Lab
20 August 2019

CREDIT AND CITATION

A small selection of the approximately 13,000 Northwest scrip applications are displayed here on the glass panels. The work was curated and designed by artist, Tiffany Shaw-Collinge, with instrumental guidance from Frank Tough, principal investigator, of the MAP Lab with assistance by Sandy Hove. In addition to the flow chart above illustrating the general scrip coupon process for Métis people, Sylvester Baptiste diagram to the right shows an example of an individual's paper trail in the application process. The documents supporting this diagram can be found in Group B / Panel #8.

@ Government of Canada, these documents have been reproduced with permission of Library and Archives Canada (2019), on behalf of the Métis people across the prairies who volunteered their family documents and the Métis Archival Project (MAP) Lab. The artist would like to thank the Métis people who participated and the Métis Archival Project (MAP) Lab for the supplied documentation and support of the project. Sources for each document are credited on each glass pane it is associated with in the bottom left corner.

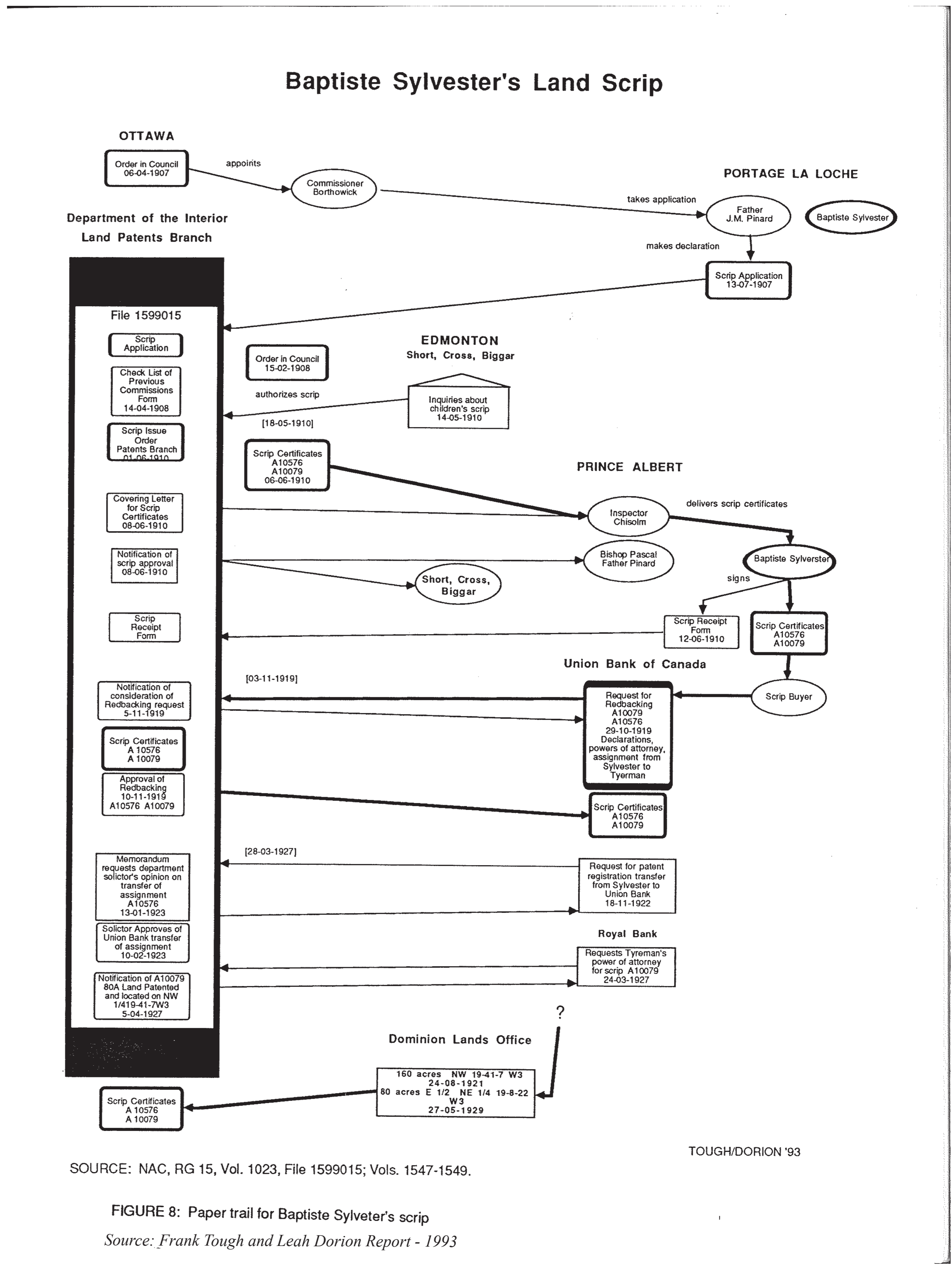
The Métis Archival Project (MAP) Lab is a cutting-edge initiative that has resulted in rich databases of historical information that powers further research into Métis rights and issues. Frank Tough, a Native Studies professor at the University of Alberta, serves as the Principal Investigator and his curiosity as a historical geographer and economic historian of the fur trade led to the establishment of the Lab. President Clément Charrier of the Métis National Council has had a long-time interest in the legal and historical complexities of the scrip system, and was responsible for initiating research relationships with universities, including the MAP Lab. Over the years, MAP projects have been funded by the Métis National Council, the Social Science and Research Council of Canada, and other Métis governments and associations.

PARTICIPANTS

APPLICATIONS AND COUPONS Last Name, First Name	SUPPLIED BY Last Name, First Name	GLASS PANEL Group A or B / # (from left to right)
Aubrichon, Rosalie	Métis Archival Project	Group A / Panel #2
Boyer, Helene	Purcell, Brenda	Group A / Panel #3
Boyer, William	Purcell, Brenda	Group A / Panel #3
Callihoo, Adam	Parquette, Amber and Métis Archival Project	Group A / Panel #3
Callihoo, Angèle	Parquette, Amber	Group A / Panel #3
Cook, Betsy	Métis Archival Project	Group A / Panel #4
Fonlds, Mary	Masiuk, Tony	Group A / Panel #5
Gagnon, Florence	Marjois, Juanita, and Métis Archival Project	Group A / Panel #5
Gladue, Christine	Parquette, Amber	Group A / Panel #5
Grouette, Antoine	Saunders Dahl, Dawn	Group A / Panel #5
Grouette, James	Saunders Dahl, Dawn	Group A / Panel #5
Grouette, Jean Baptiste	Saunders Dahl, Dawn	Group A / Panel #5
Hamelin, Monique	Saunders Dahl, Dawn	Group A / Panel #5
Harrison, Thomas Jr	Saunders Dahl, Dawn	Group A / Panel #5
Hyslop, Elizabeth	Métis Archival Project	Group A / Panel #6
Janvier, Lucia	Métis Archival Project	Group A / Panel #7
Lafournaise, Jean Baptiste	Cuthill, Trevor and Métis Archival Project	Group A / Panel #8
Lafournaise, Napoleon	Cuthill, Trevor	Group A / Panel #8
Laliberte, Alexandre	Métis Archival Project	Group B / Panel #2
Linklater, Caroline	Moore, Dwight and Métis Archival Project	Group A / Panel #8
Linklater, Charlotte	Moore, Dwight and Métis Archival Project	Group A / Panel #8
Linklater, George	Moore, Dwight and Métis Archival Project	Group A / Panel #8
Malboeuf, Marie	Métis Archival Project	Group B / Panel #3
Mader, Catherine	Saunders Dahl, Dawn and Métis Archival Project	Group B / Panel #4
McDonald, Alexander	Powell, Cody	Group B / Panel #4
McMillan, Marie Letendre	Purcell, Brenda	Group B / Panel #4
Morin, Jean Baptiste	Saunders Dahl, Dawn	Group B / Panel #4
Morin, Norbert Perrault	Saunders Dahl, Dawn	Group B / Panel #4
Morin, Octave Perrault dit	Saunders Dahl, Dawn	Group B / Panel #4
Morin, Veronique	Métis Archival Project	Group B / Panel #5
Perrault-Harrison, Melanie	Saunders Dahl, Dawn	Group B / Panel #6
Stevens, Mary Maud	Masiuk, Tony	Group B / Panel #6
Stevens, William Richard	Masiuk, Tony	Group B / Panel #7
Stevens, William Richard	Masiuk, Tony	Group B / Panel #7
Sylvestre, Baptiste	Métis Archival Project	Group B / Panel #8
Taylor, Edward Prince	Masiuk, Tony	Group B / Panel #7
Tourangeau, Louis	Shaw-Collinge, Tiffany and Métis Archival Project	Group B / Panel #7

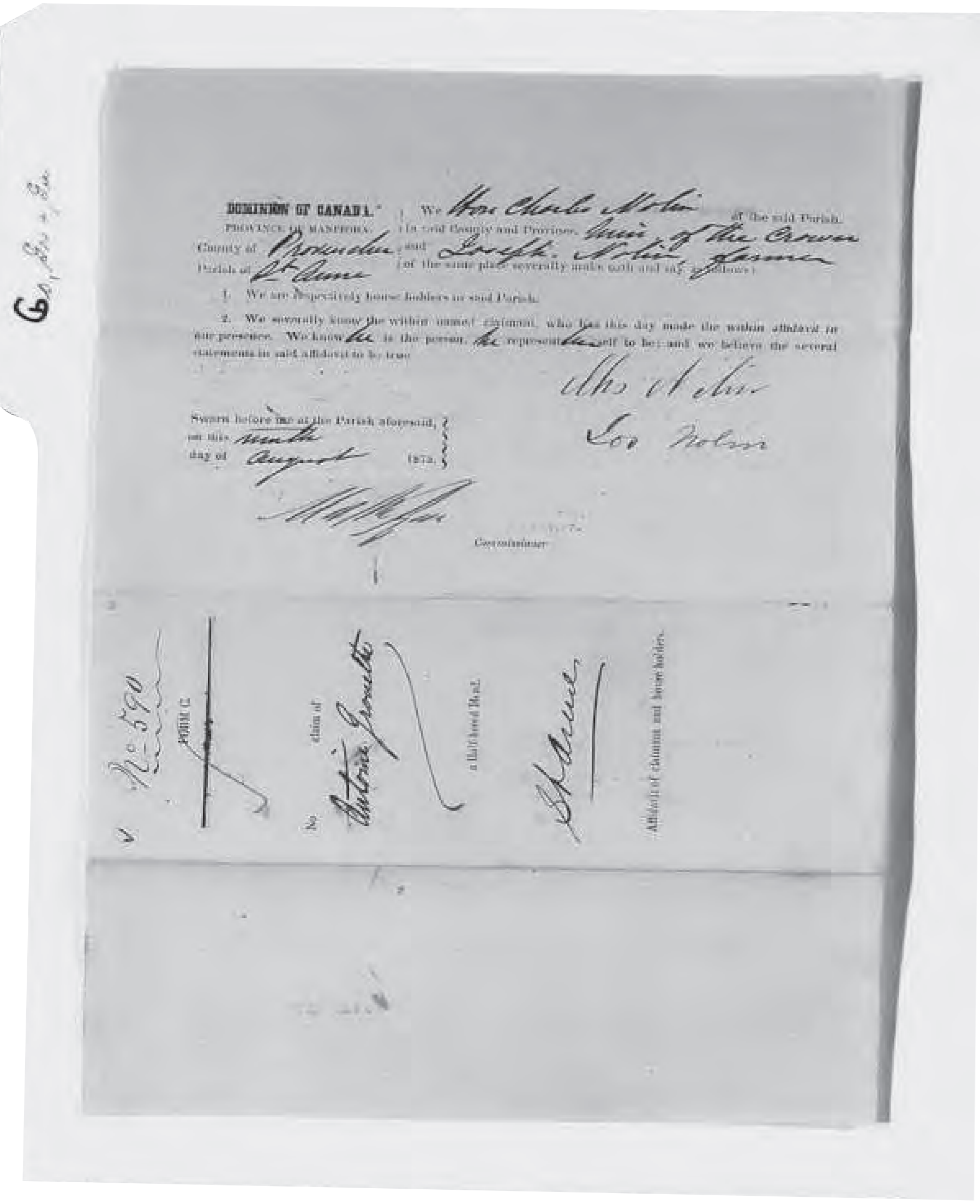
INDIVIDUAL SCRIP - SYLVESTER BAPTISTE MODEL - 1908 TO 1929

Sylvester Baptiste diagram is an example of an individual's paper trail in the scrip application process. The documents supporting this diagram can be found in Group B / Panel #8.

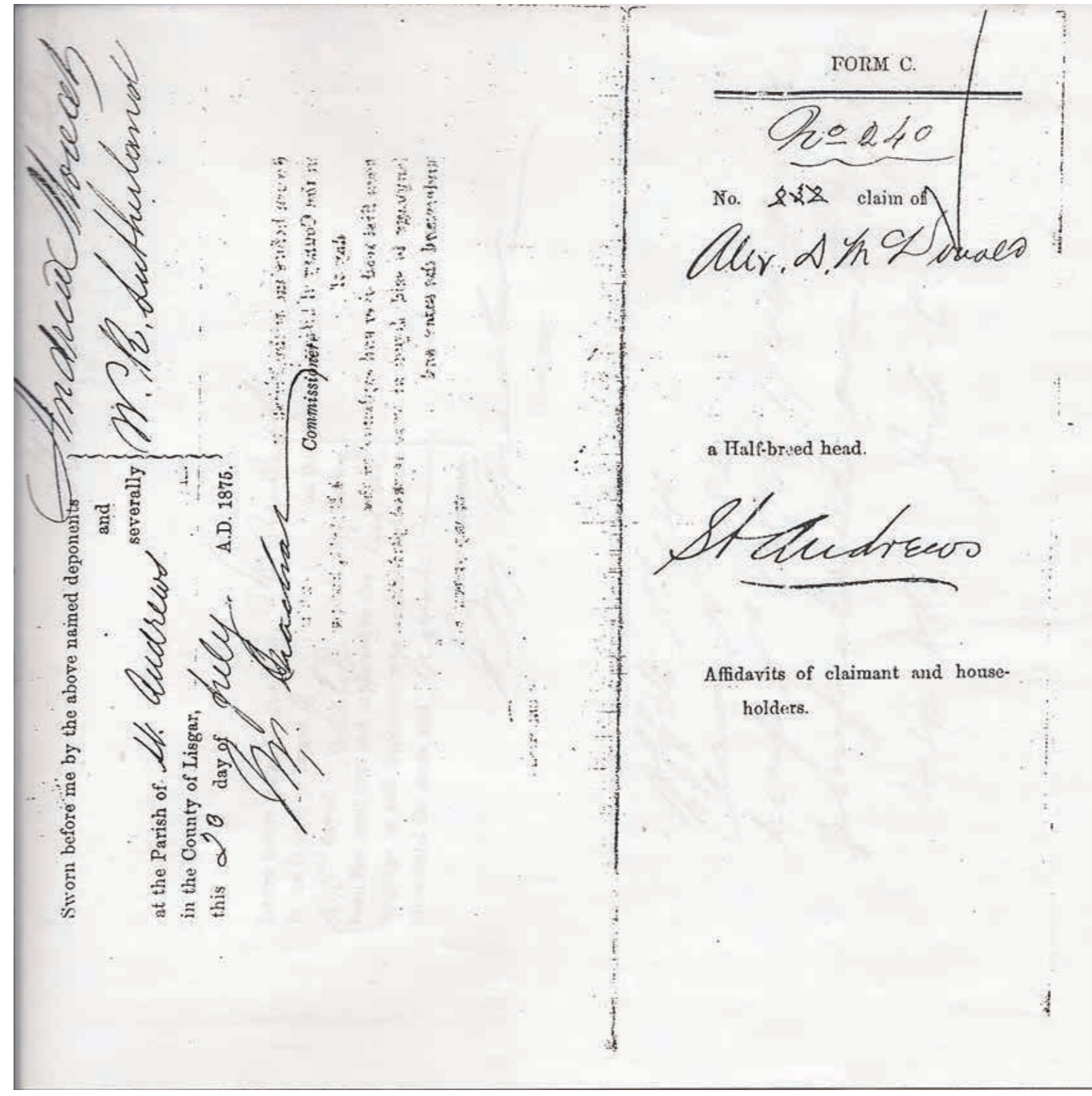


SOURCE: NAC, RG 15, Vol. 1023, File 1599015; Vols. 1547-1549.

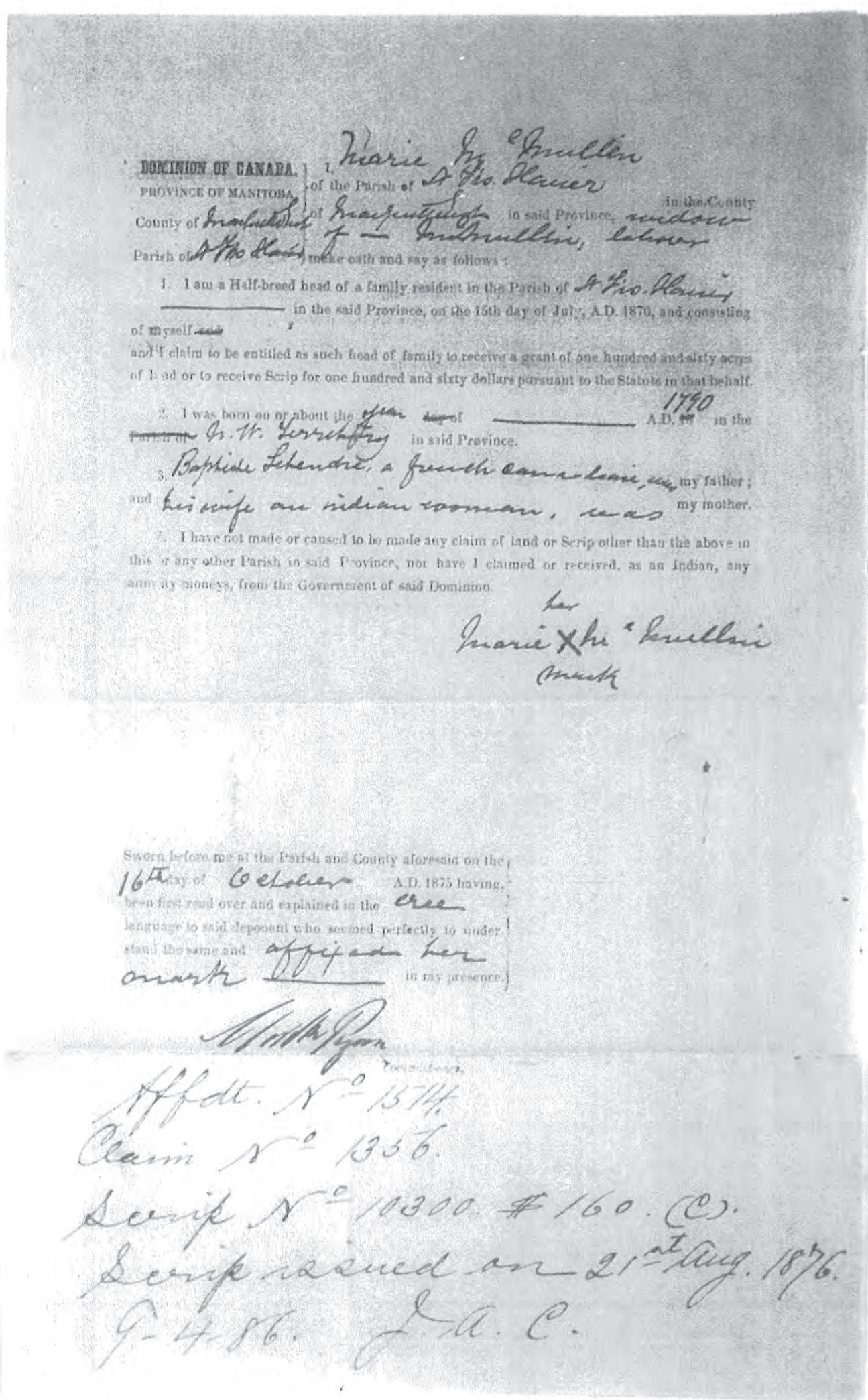
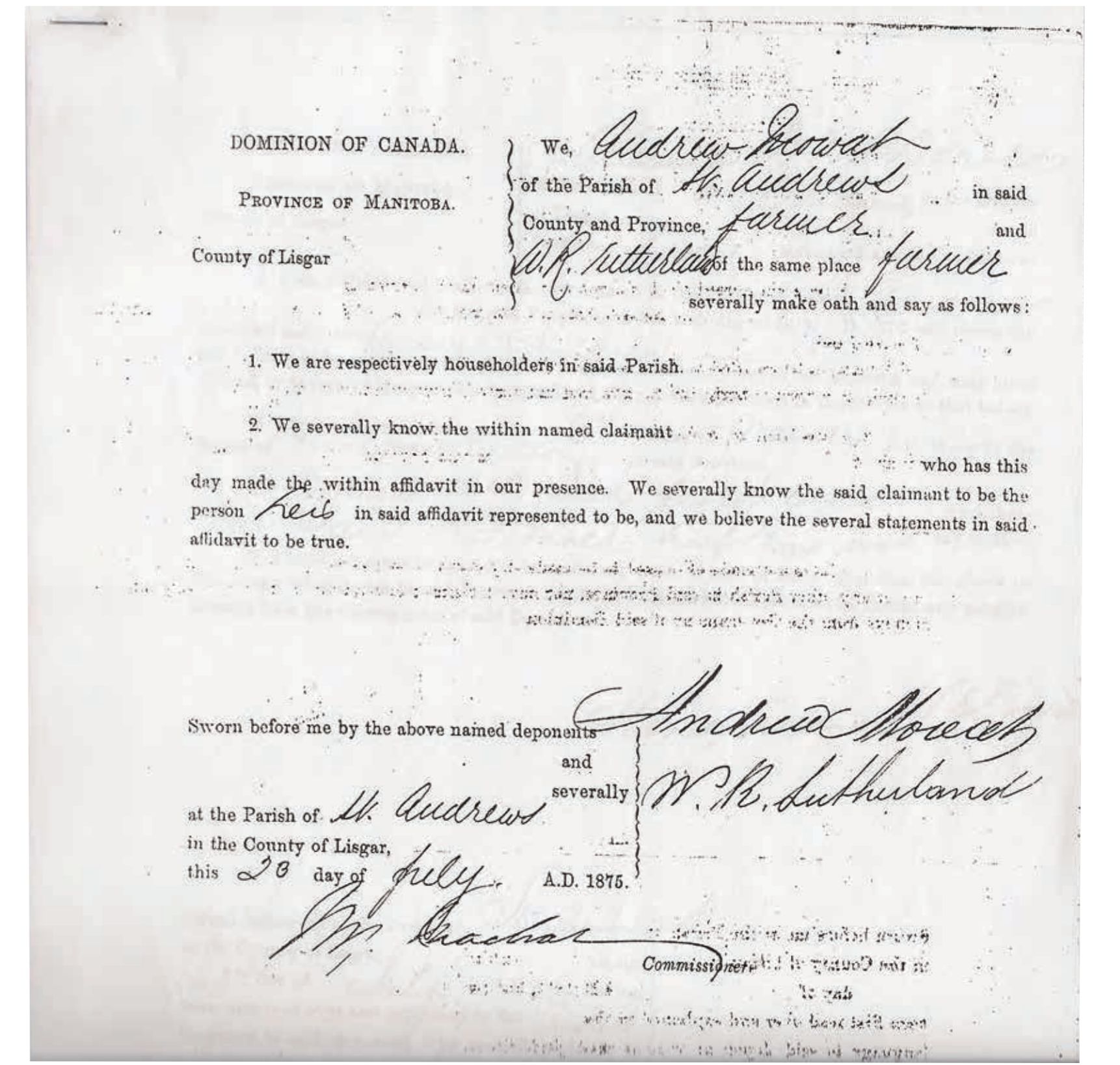
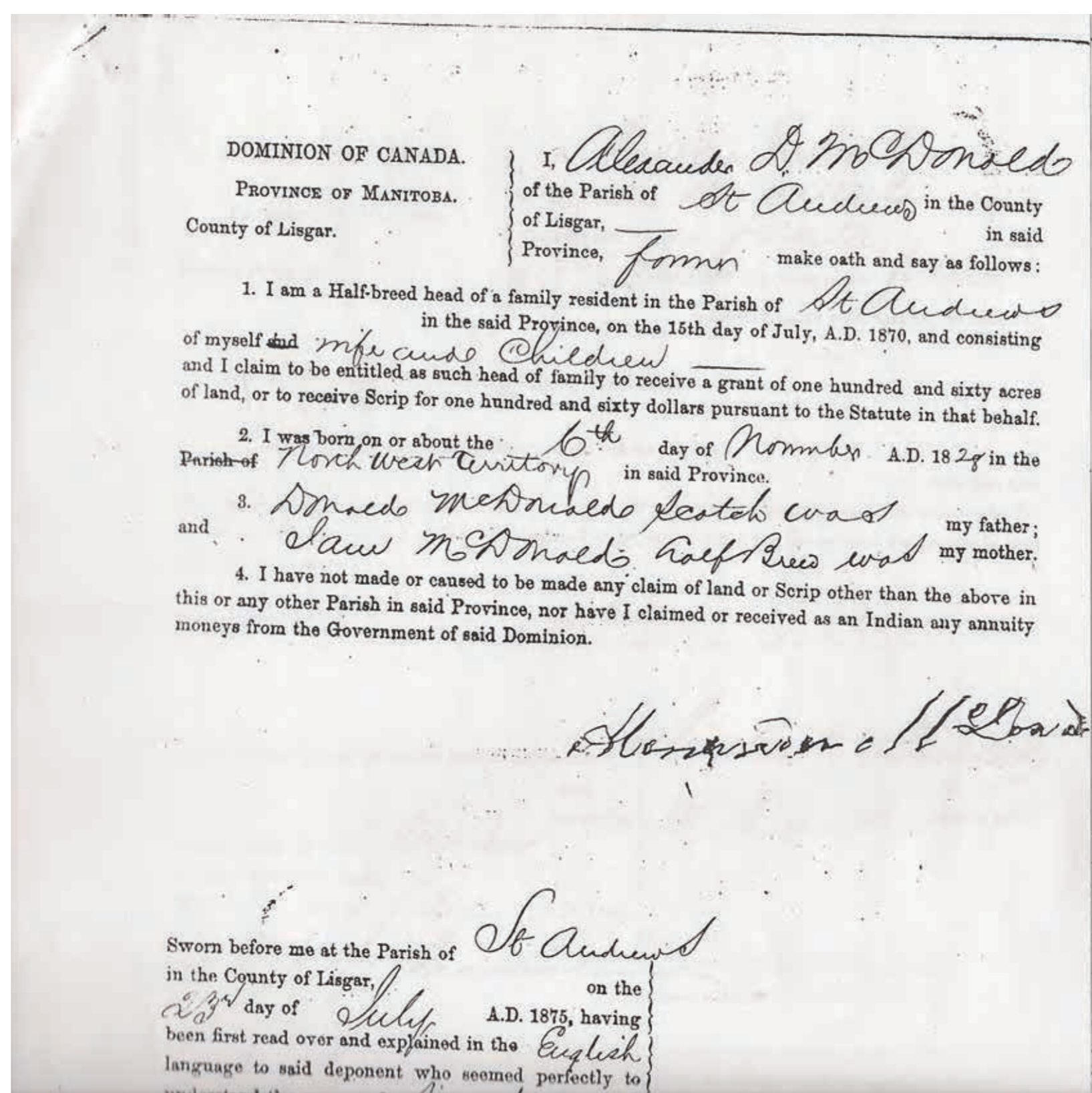
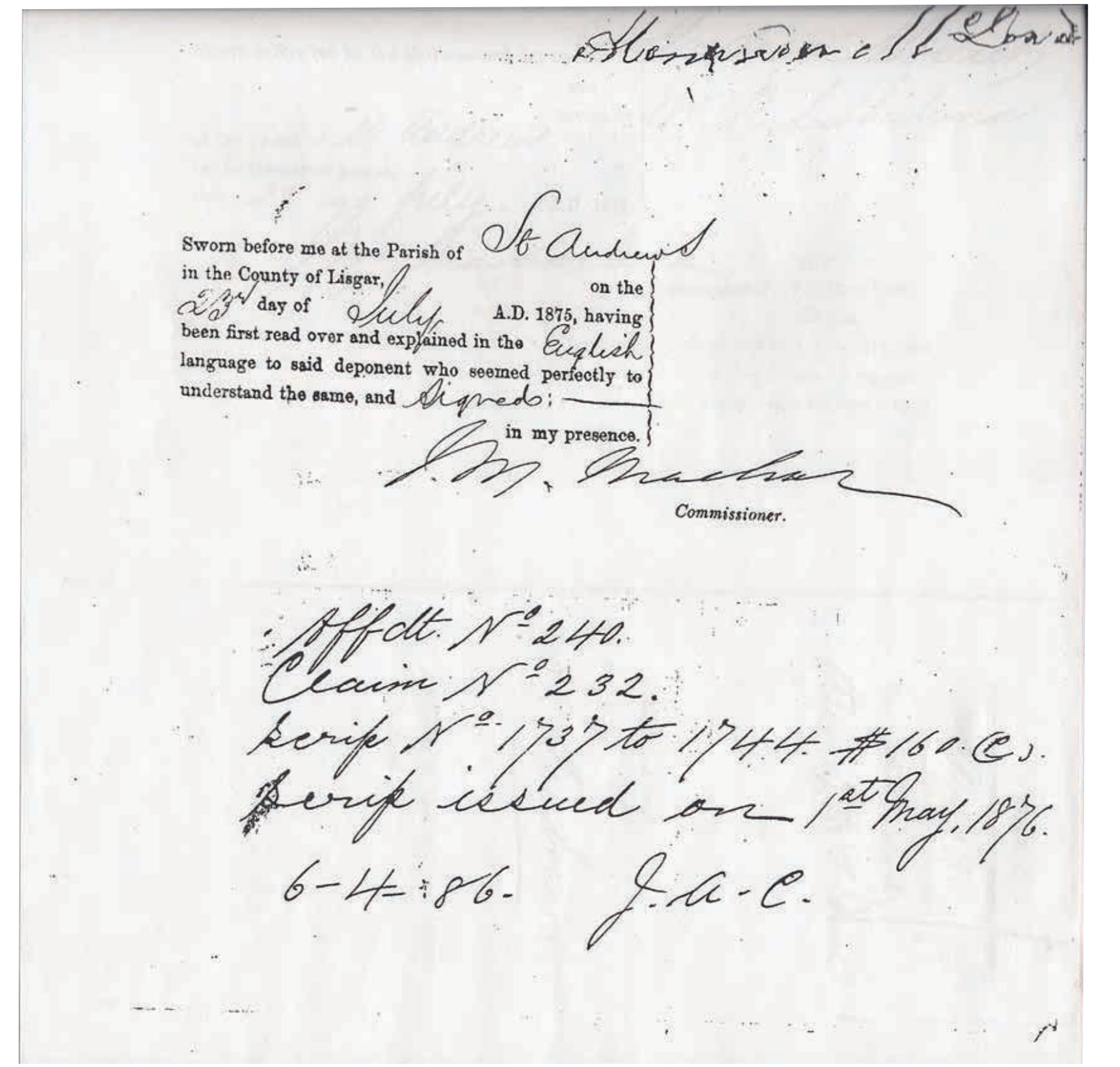
FIGURE 8: Paper trail for Baptiste Sylvester's scrip
Source: Frank Tough and Leah Dorion Report - 1993



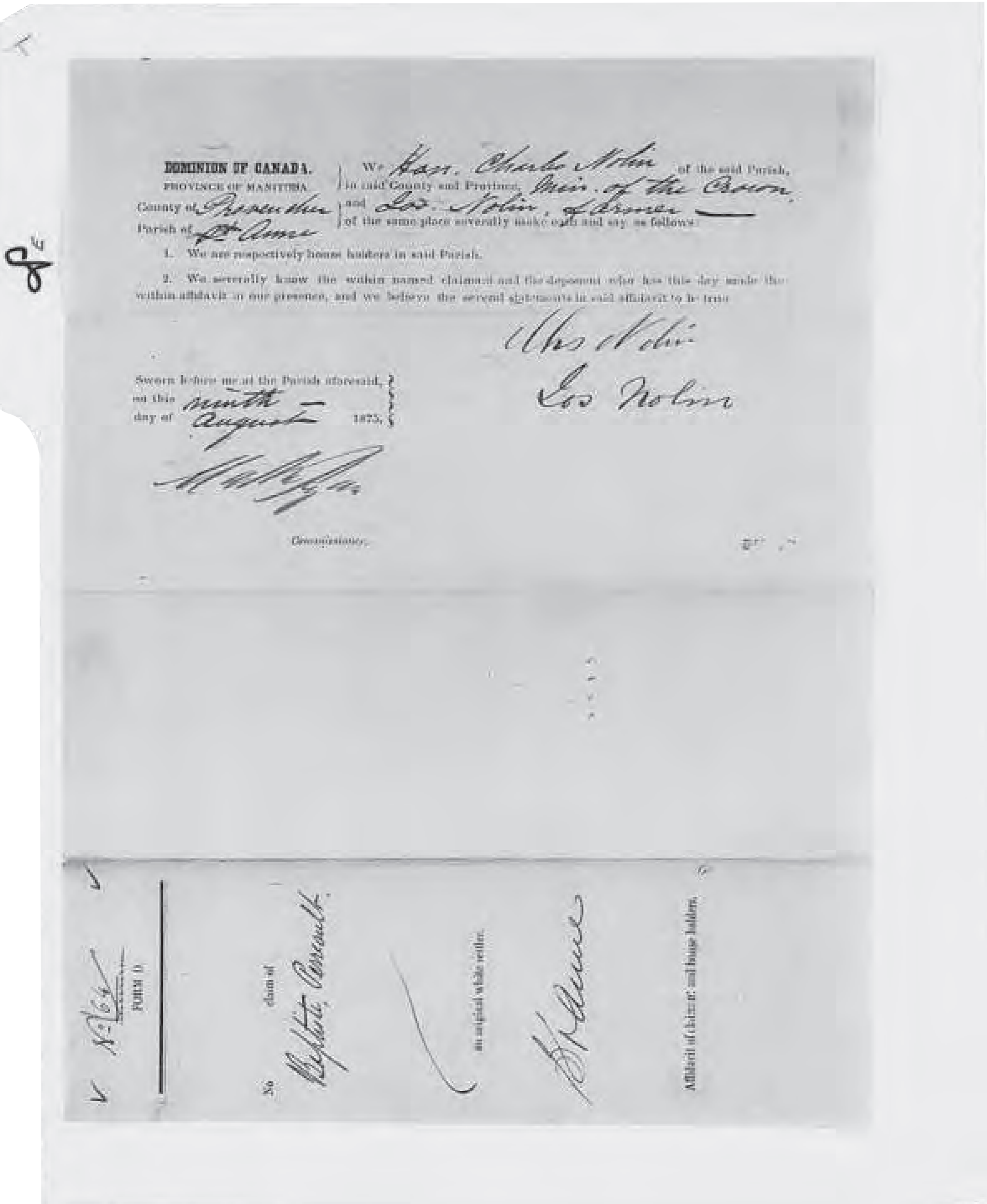
Mader, Catherine



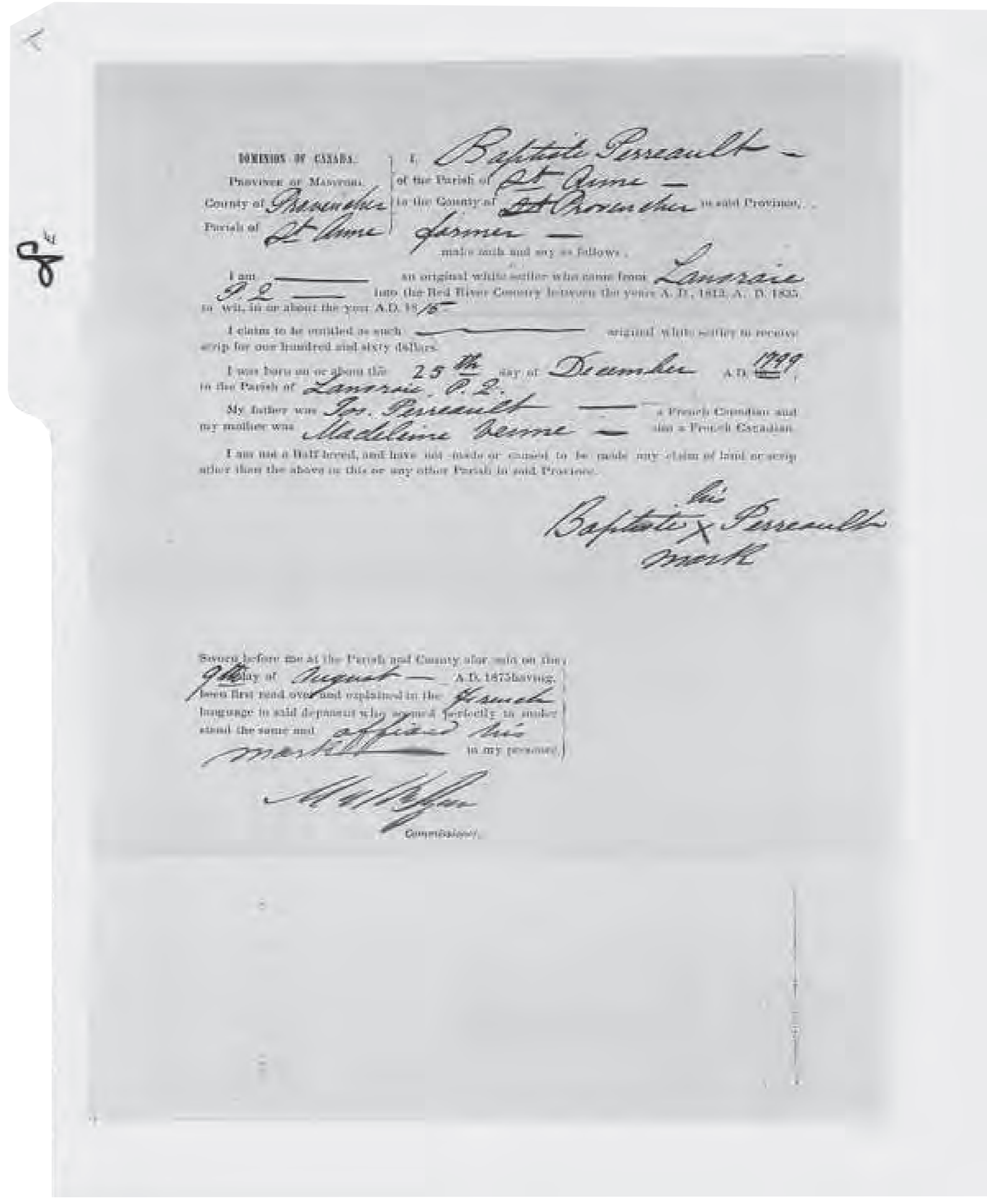
McDonald, Alexander



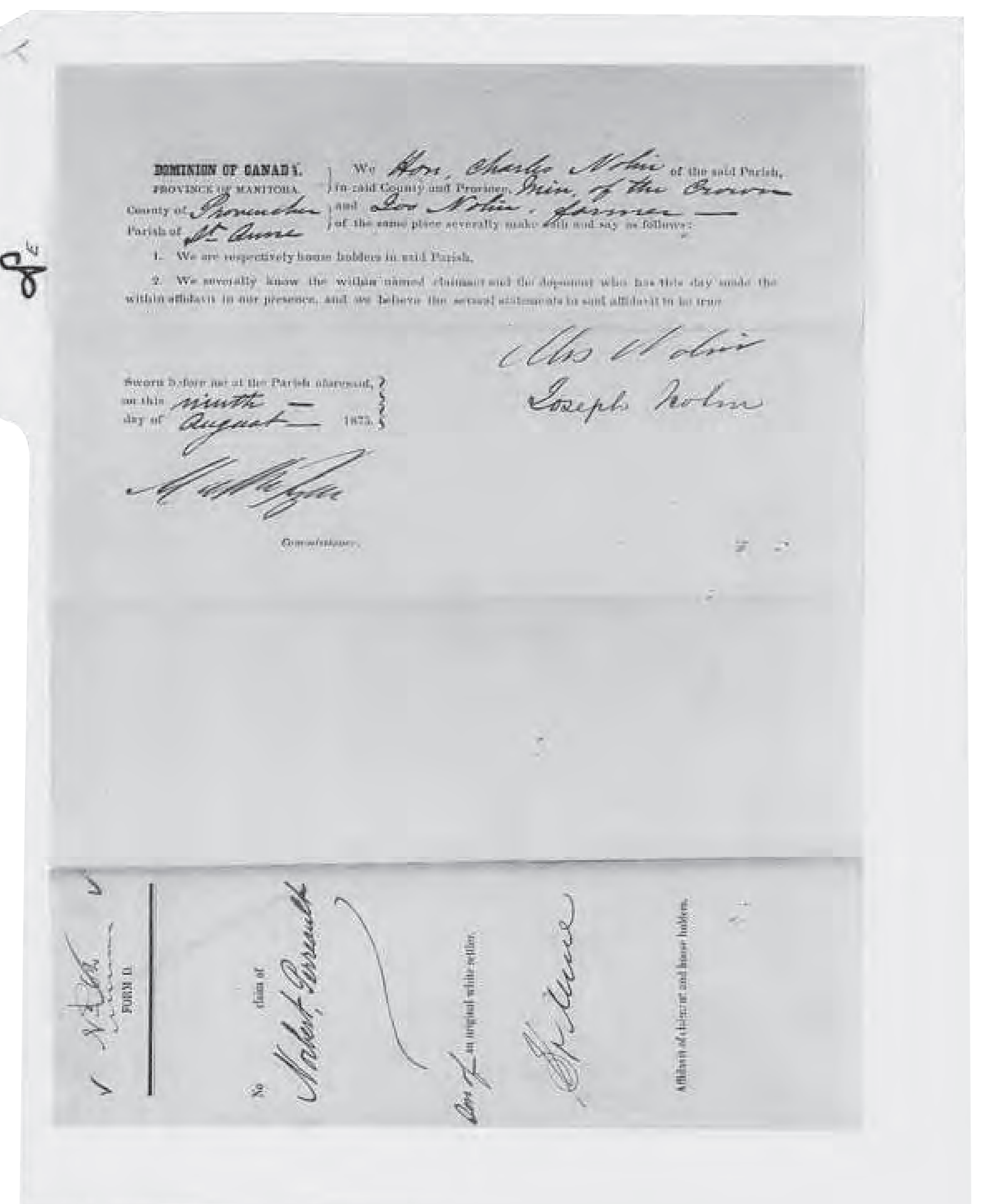
McMillan, Marie Letendre



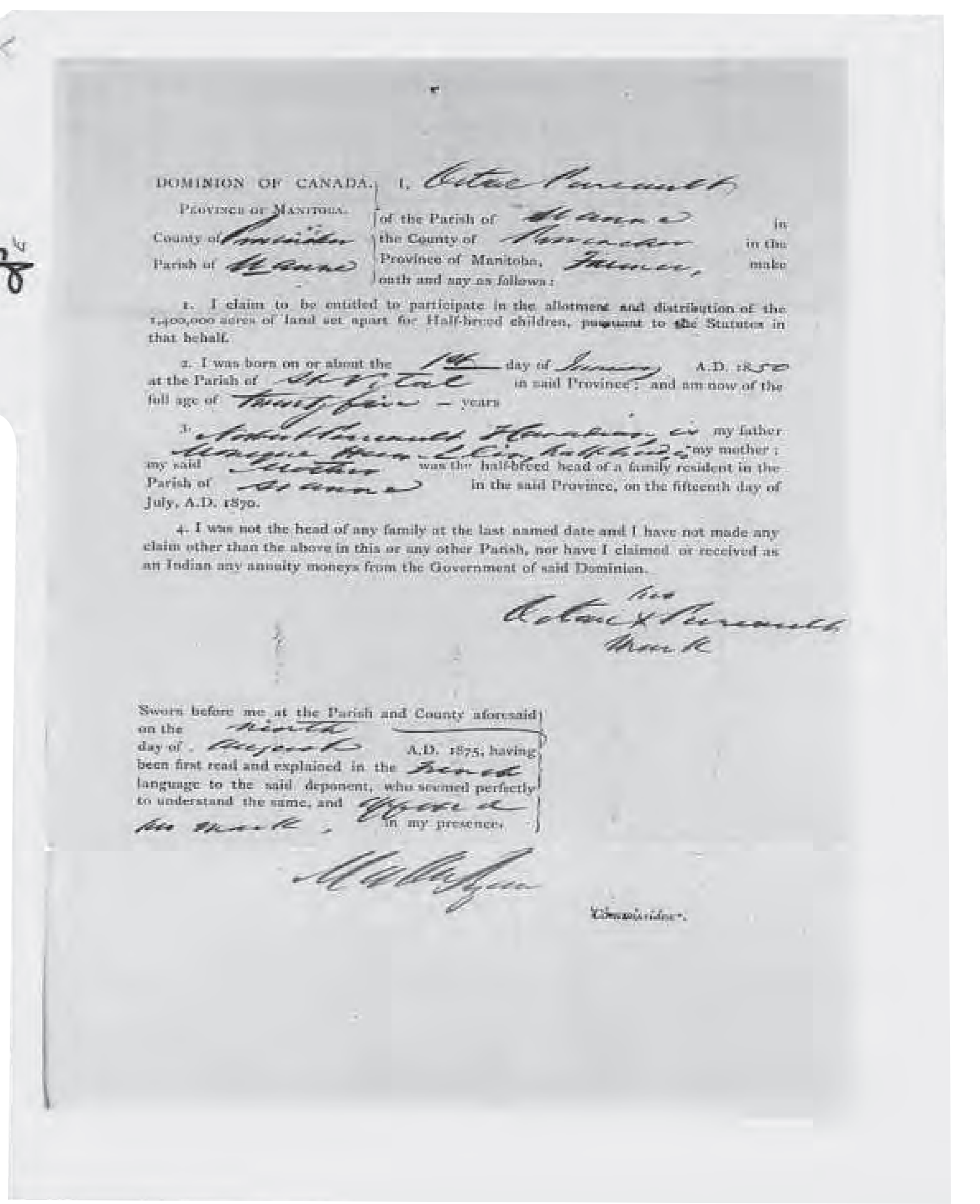
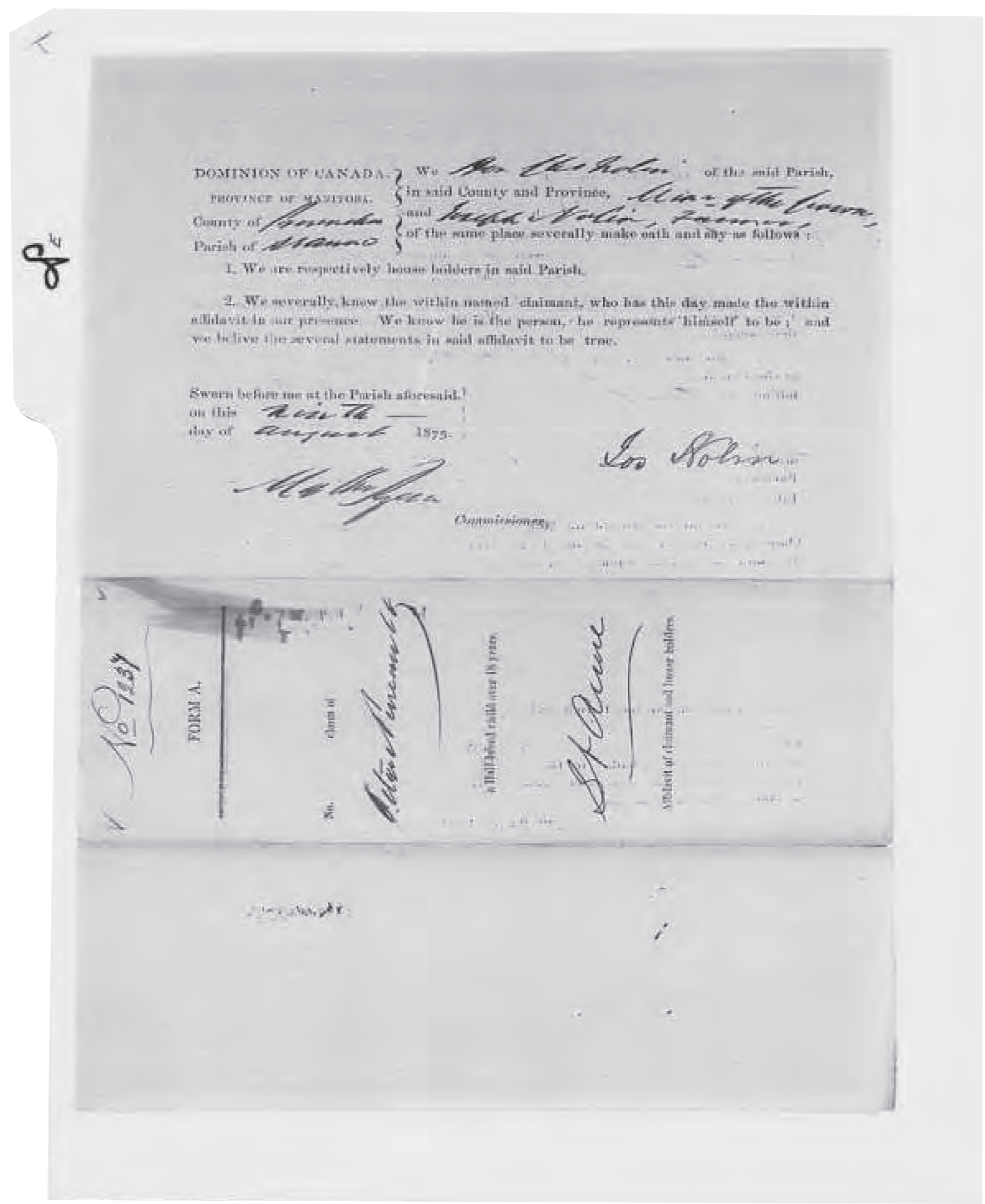
Morin, Jean Baptiste



Morin, Norbert Perrault



Morin, Octave Perrault dit



GROUP B / PANEL #4

- Mader, Catherine | Supplied by Dawn Saunders Dahl
- McDonald, Alexander | Supplied by Cody Powell
- McMillan, Marie Letendre | Supplied by Brenda Purcell
- Morin, Jean Baptiste | Supplied by Dawn Saunders Dahl
- Morin, Norbert Perrault | Supplied by Dawn Saunders Dahl
- Morin, Octave Perrault dit | Supplied by Dawn Saunders Dahl

DISCHARGE FROM TREATY. OFFICE OF THE INDIAN COMMISSIONER. ROSSIA, 2nd March 1859. This is to certify that Veronique Morin a former member of the Cheminabayo Band of Indians, residing at Green Lake, North of Carlton having fully complied with the requirements of Section 2 of the Indian Act, as amended by Section 1 of the Act of Victoria, chapter 2 is hereby allowed the approval of the Department of the Interior (Canada) having been given to withdraw from the Indian Treaty with which he or she has been connected.

Form A. 1587 DUPLICATE. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, CANADA. NORTH WEST HALF-BREED COMMISSION. Veronique Morin 1859. I hereby certify under the power vested in me by an Order in Council dated the 1st day of July 1878, that Veronique Morin a Half-Breed, has proved to my satisfaction that he was residing in the North West Territory previous to the 15th day of July, 1878, and under Section 21 of Chapter 21 of the Statutes in Force in Canada, 1858, and the Order in Council of the 29th March, 1859, is entitled at this date to a grant of 240 acres.

2183. Louis Morin on behalf of Jephthah Morin and Veronique Morin his wife. Claim to participate in any grant of Half-Breed living in the North-West Territory. Green Lake, N.W.T. Veronique Morin Cheminabayo Band Green Lake, North of Carlton 240 Acres 2nd March 1859

167788. Veronique Morin with consent of Green Lake Cheminabayo Band Green Lake, North of Carlton 240 Acres 2nd March 1859

167788. Veronique Morin with consent of Green Lake Cheminabayo Band Green Lake, North of Carlton 240 Acres 2nd March 1859

203611. Veronique Morin 2nd March 1859. I hereby certify under the power vested in me by an Order in Council dated the 1st day of July 1878, that Veronique Morin a Half-Breed, has proved to my satisfaction that he was residing in the North West Territory previous to the 15th day of July, 1878, and under Section 21 of Chapter 21 of the Statutes in Force in Canada, 1858, and the Order in Council of the 29th March, 1859, is entitled at this date to a grant of 240 acres.

2177. Veronique Morin 2nd March 1859. I hereby certify under the power vested in me by an Order in Council dated the 1st day of July 1878, that Veronique Morin a Half-Breed, has proved to my satisfaction that he was residing in the North West Territory previous to the 15th day of July, 1878, and under Section 21 of Chapter 21 of the Statutes in Force in Canada, 1858, and the Order in Council of the 29th March, 1859, is entitled at this date to a grant of 240 acres.

Jephthah Morin with consent of Green Lake Cheminabayo Band Green Lake, North of Carlton 240 Acres 2nd March 1859

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Department of the Interior, Ottawa July 17th 1859. Veronique Morin 2nd March 1859. I hereby certify under the power vested in me by an Order in Council dated the 1st day of July 1878, that Veronique Morin a Half-Breed, has proved to my satisfaction that he was residing in the North West Territory previous to the 15th day of July, 1878, and under Section 21 of Chapter 21 of the Statutes in Force in Canada, 1858, and the Order in Council of the 29th March, 1859, is entitled at this date to a grant of 240 acres.

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When at Green Lake in March 1859, Veronique Morin being absent, did not get her certificate for scrip, she was with her husband at Abela la Croix in possession of 240 acres according to order in Council of 17th March 1859. This claim should be allowed. Her P.O. address will be as certified in writing when in the care of her father Jephthah Morin at Green Lake. R. J. Poole Ottawa 25 April 1859.

2177. Veronique Morin 2nd March 1859. I hereby certify under the power vested in me by an Order in Council dated the 1st day of July 1878, that Veronique Morin a Half-Breed, has proved to my satisfaction that he was residing in the North West Territory previous to the 15th day of July, 1878, and under Section 21 of Chapter 21 of the Statutes in Force in Canada, 1858, and the Order in Council of the 29th March, 1859, is entitled at this date to a grant of 240 acres.

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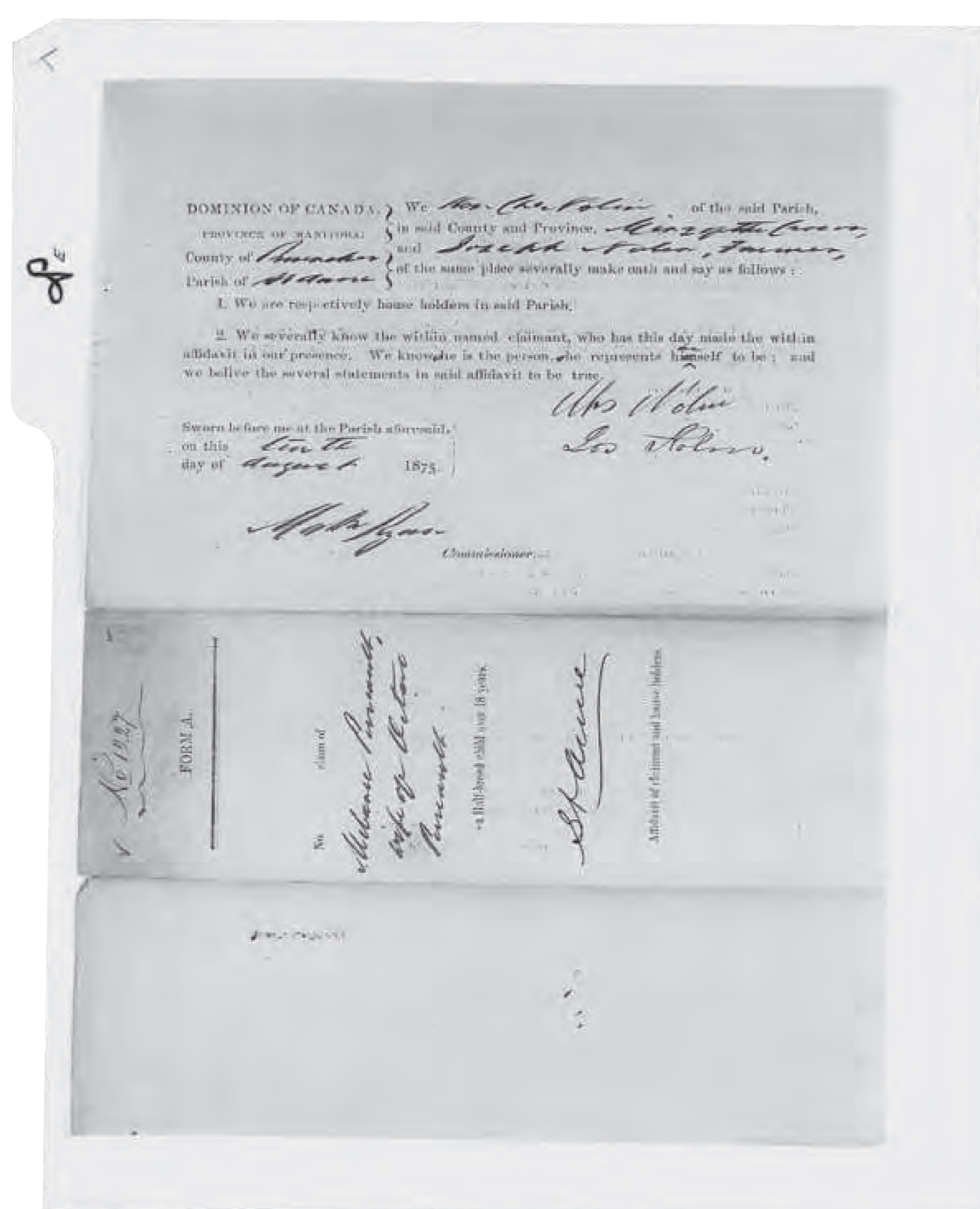
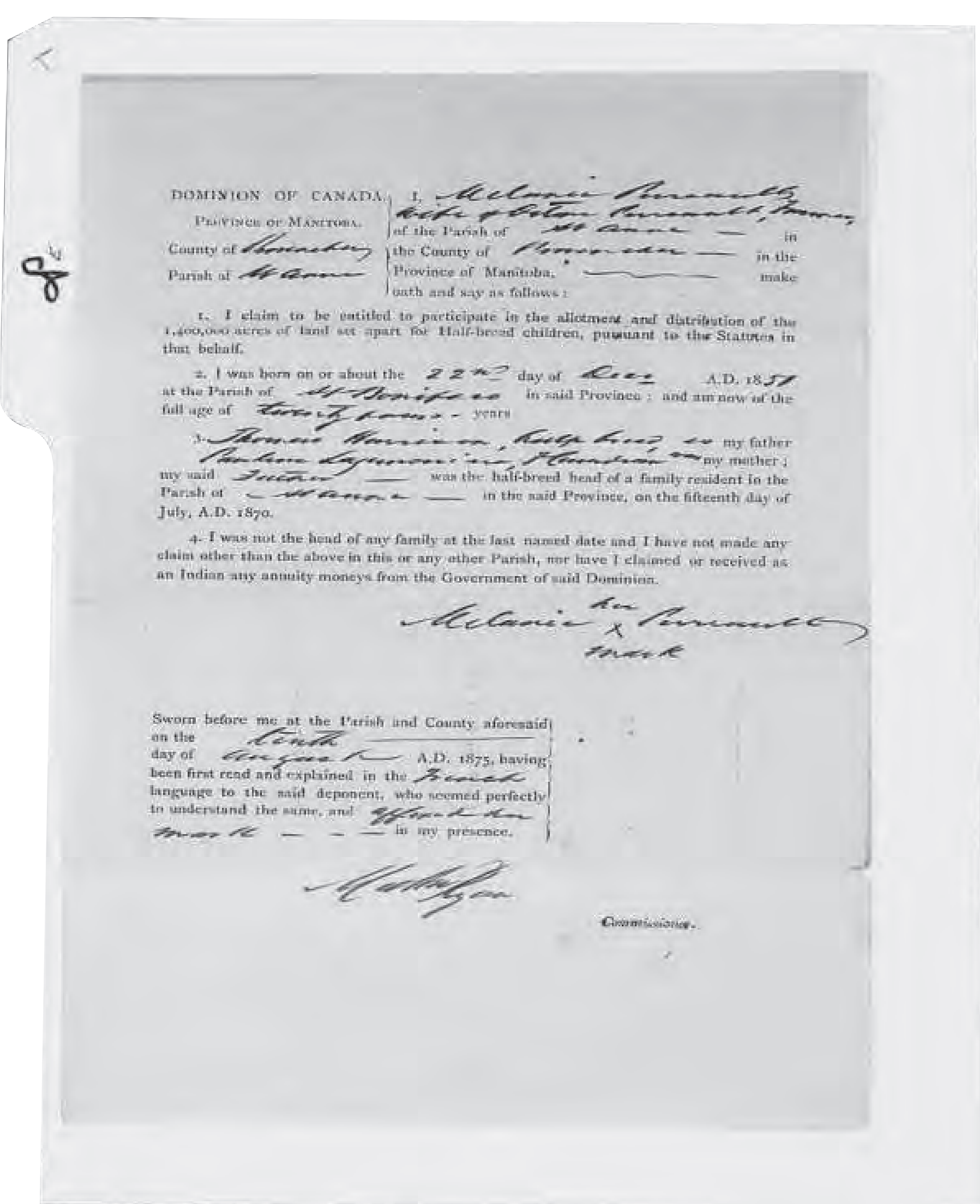
Form A. 1587 TRIPPLICATE AND RECEIPT. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, CANADA. NORTH WEST HALF-BREED COMMISSION. Veronique Morin 1859. I hereby certify under the power vested in me by an Order in Council dated the 1st day of July 1878, that Veronique Morin a Half-Breed, has proved to my satisfaction that he was residing in the North West Territory previous to the 15th day of July, 1878, and under Section 21 of Chapter 21 of the Statutes in Force in Canada, 1858, and the Order in Council of the 29th March, 1859, is entitled at this date to a grant of 240 acres.

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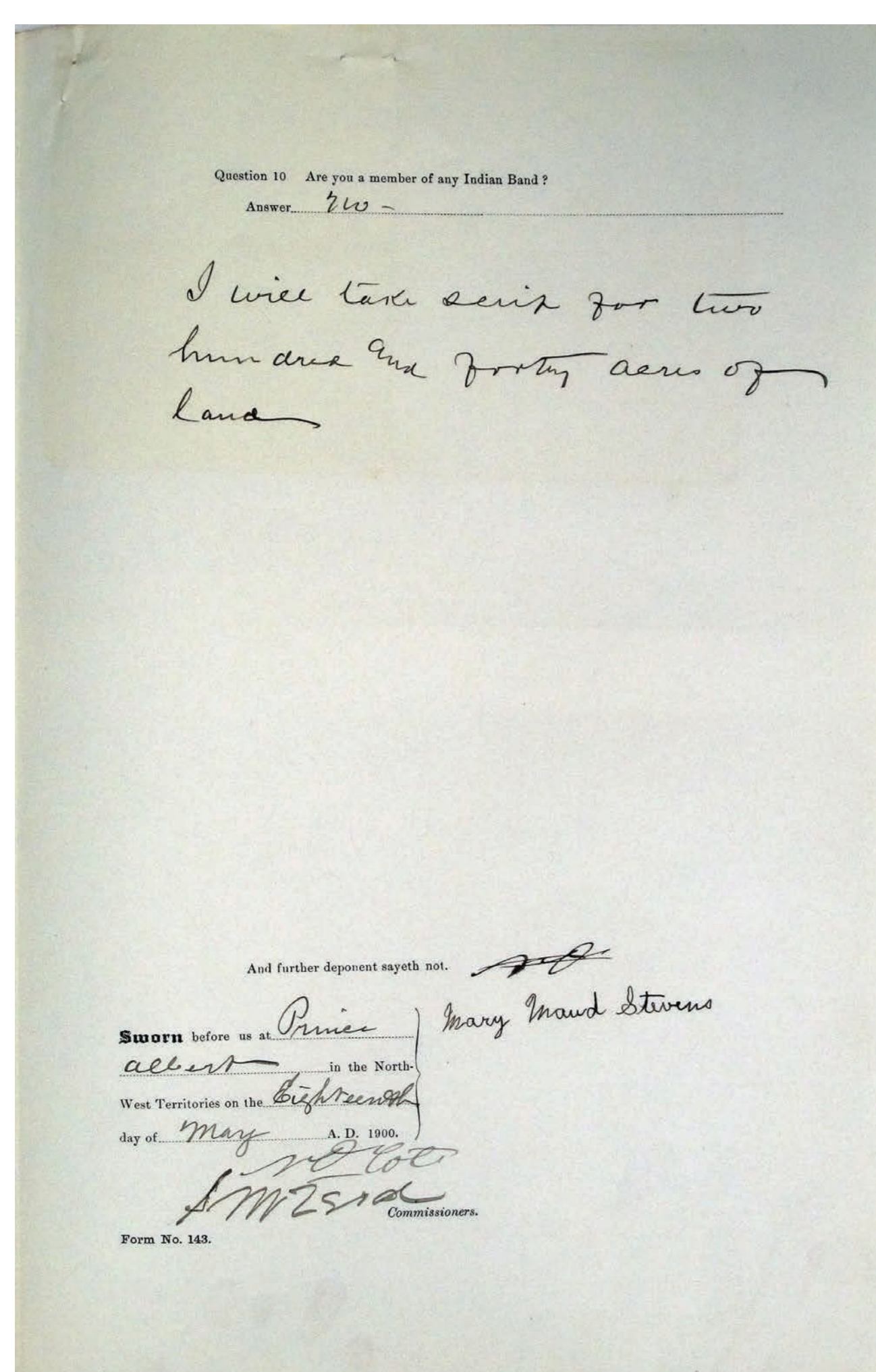
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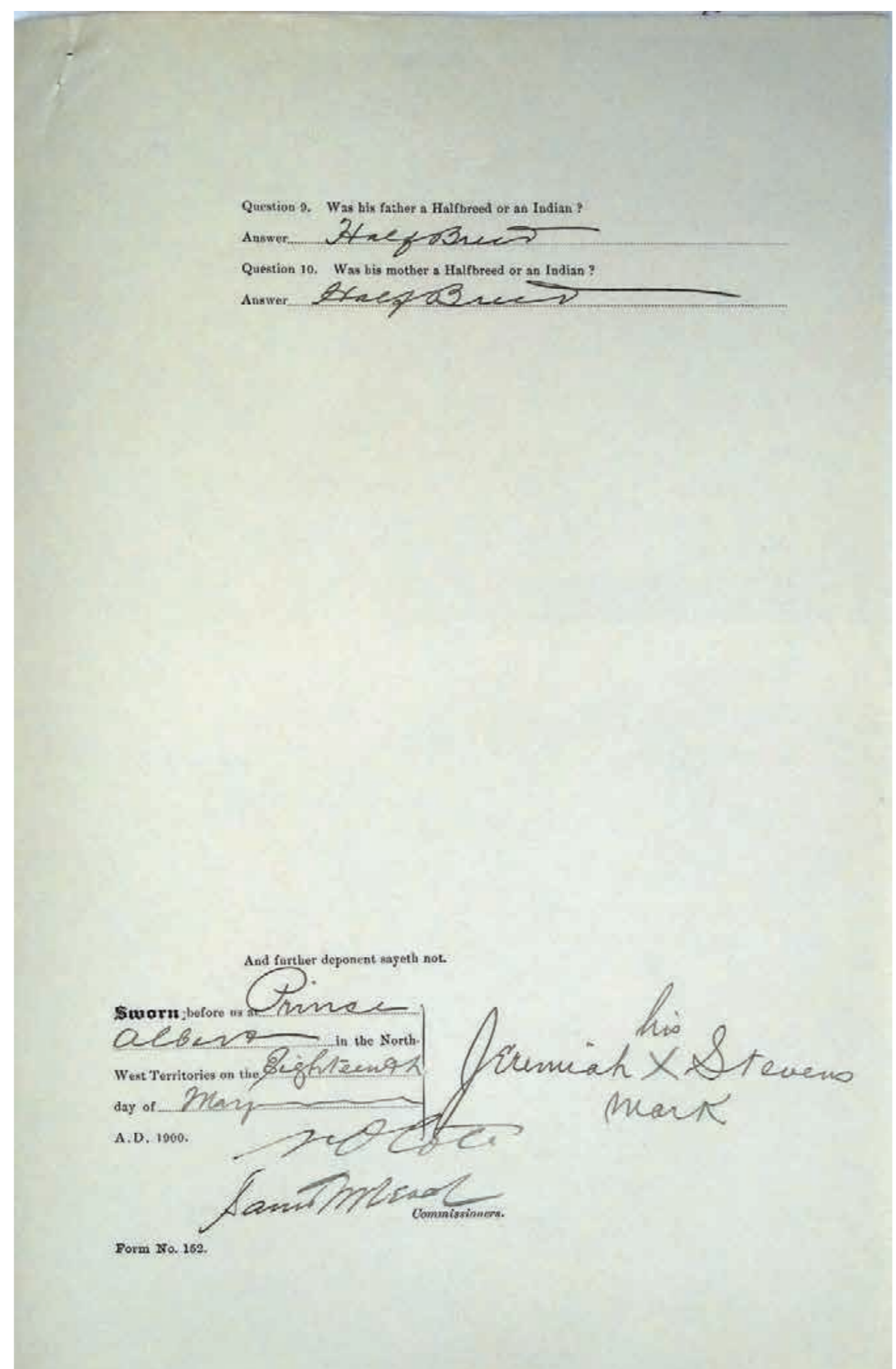
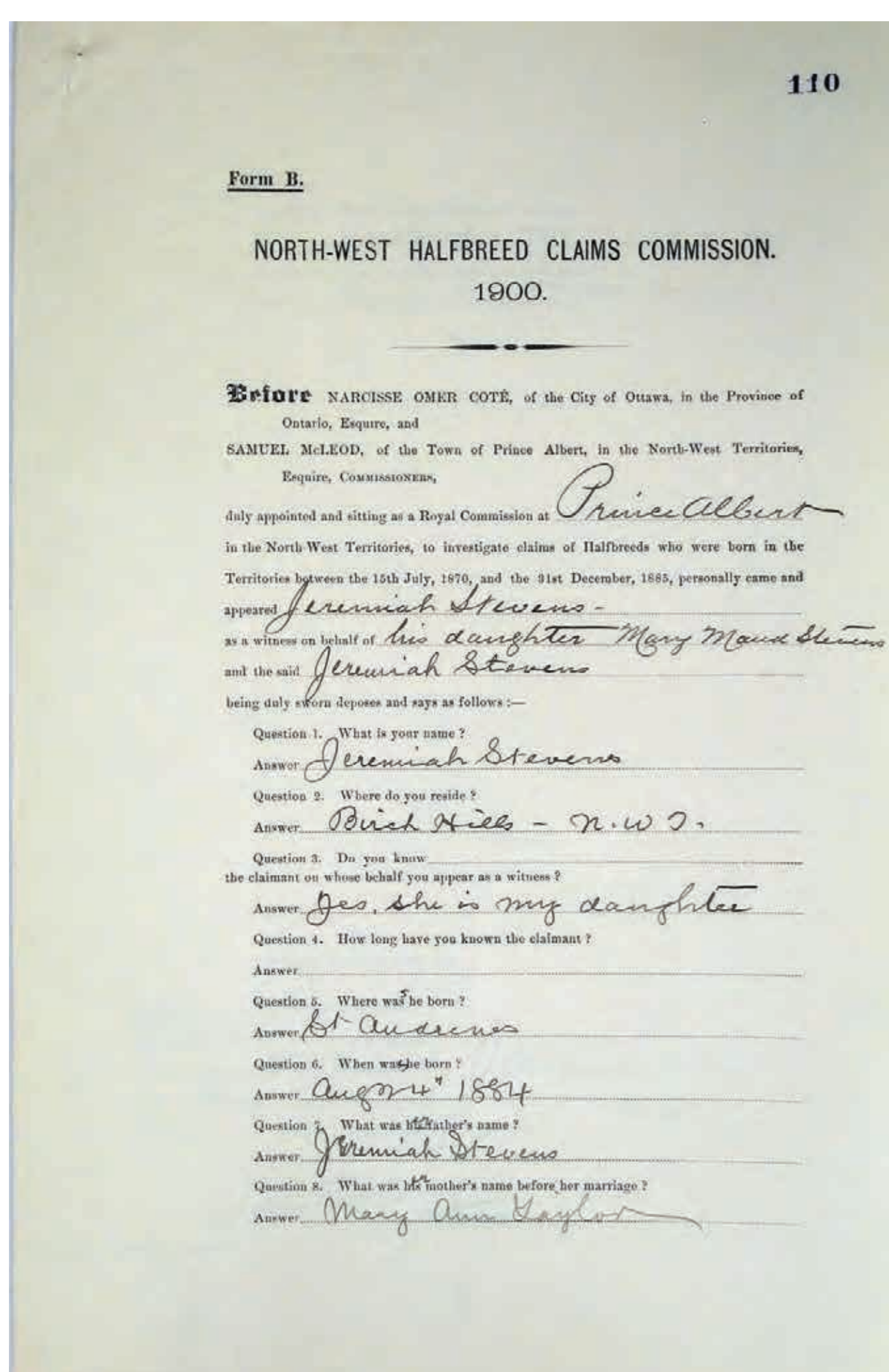
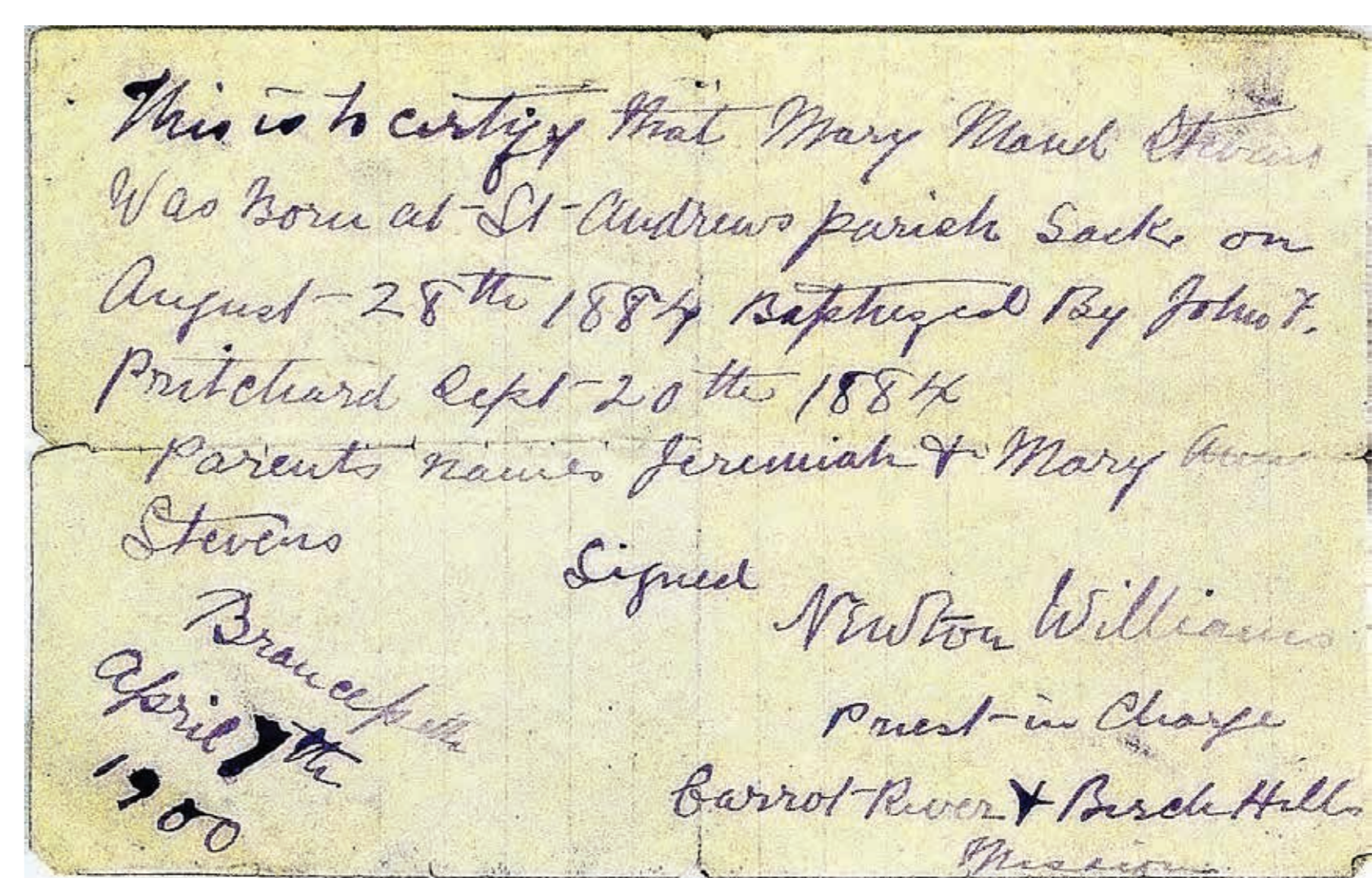
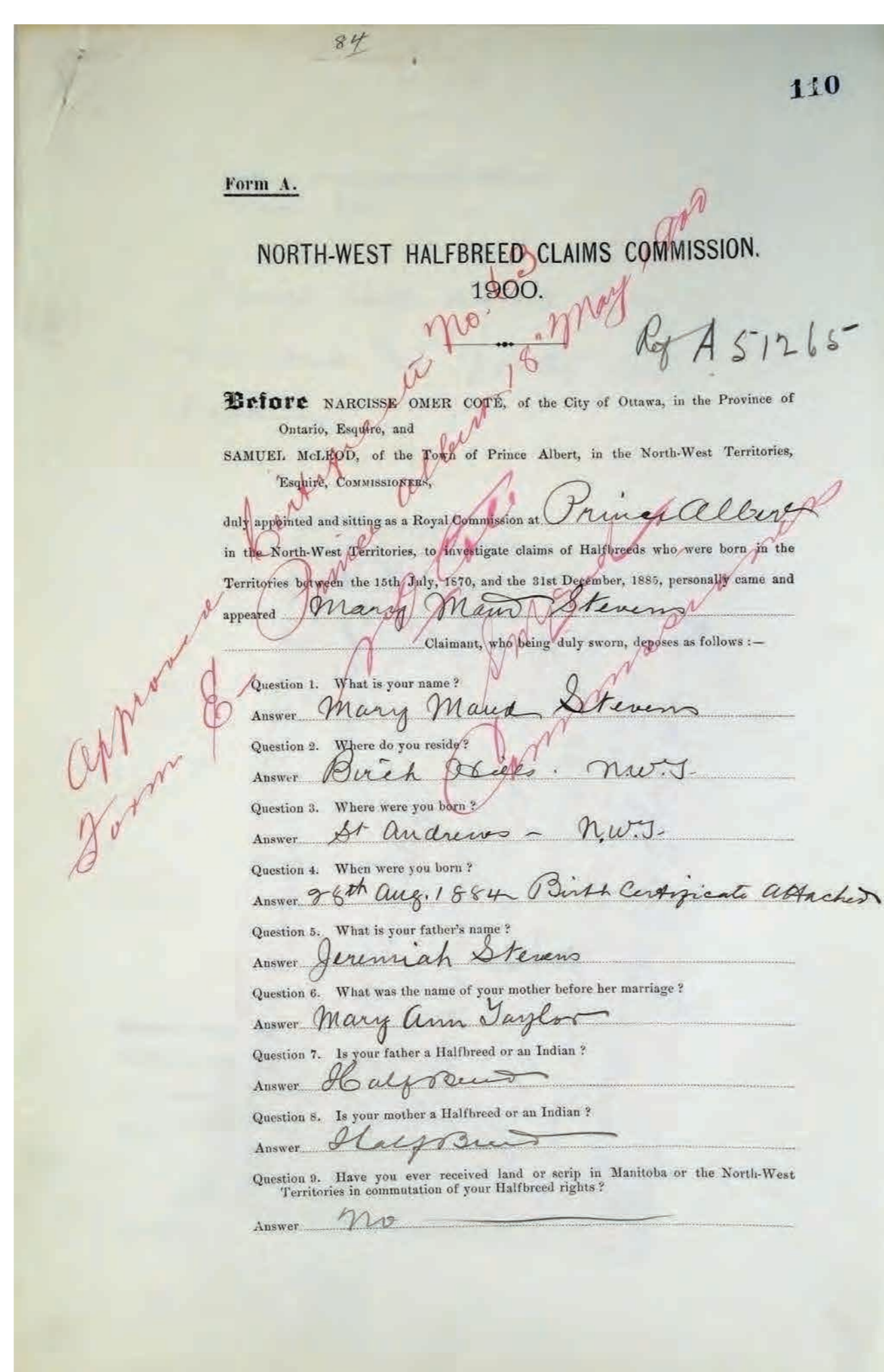
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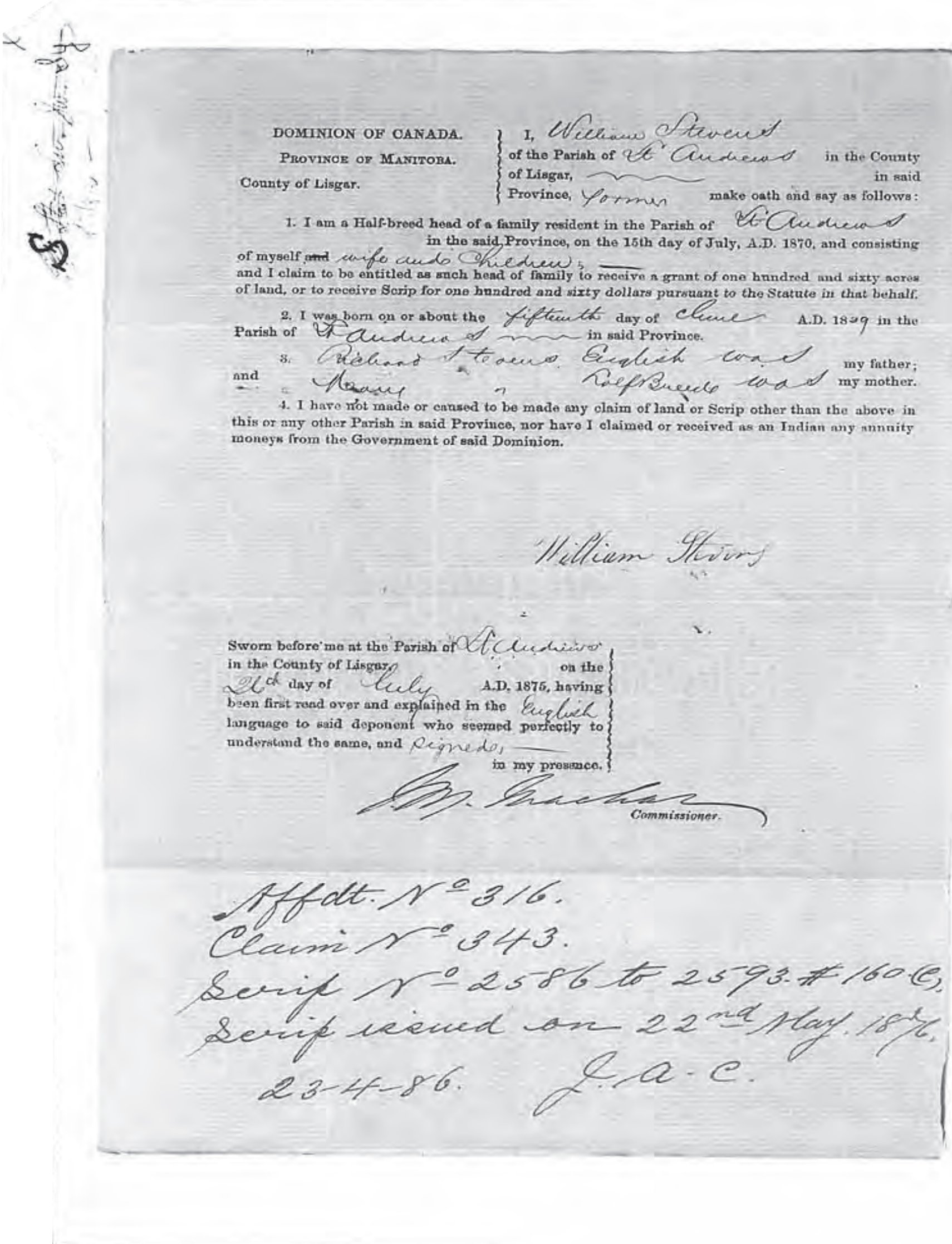


Perrault-Harrison, Melanée

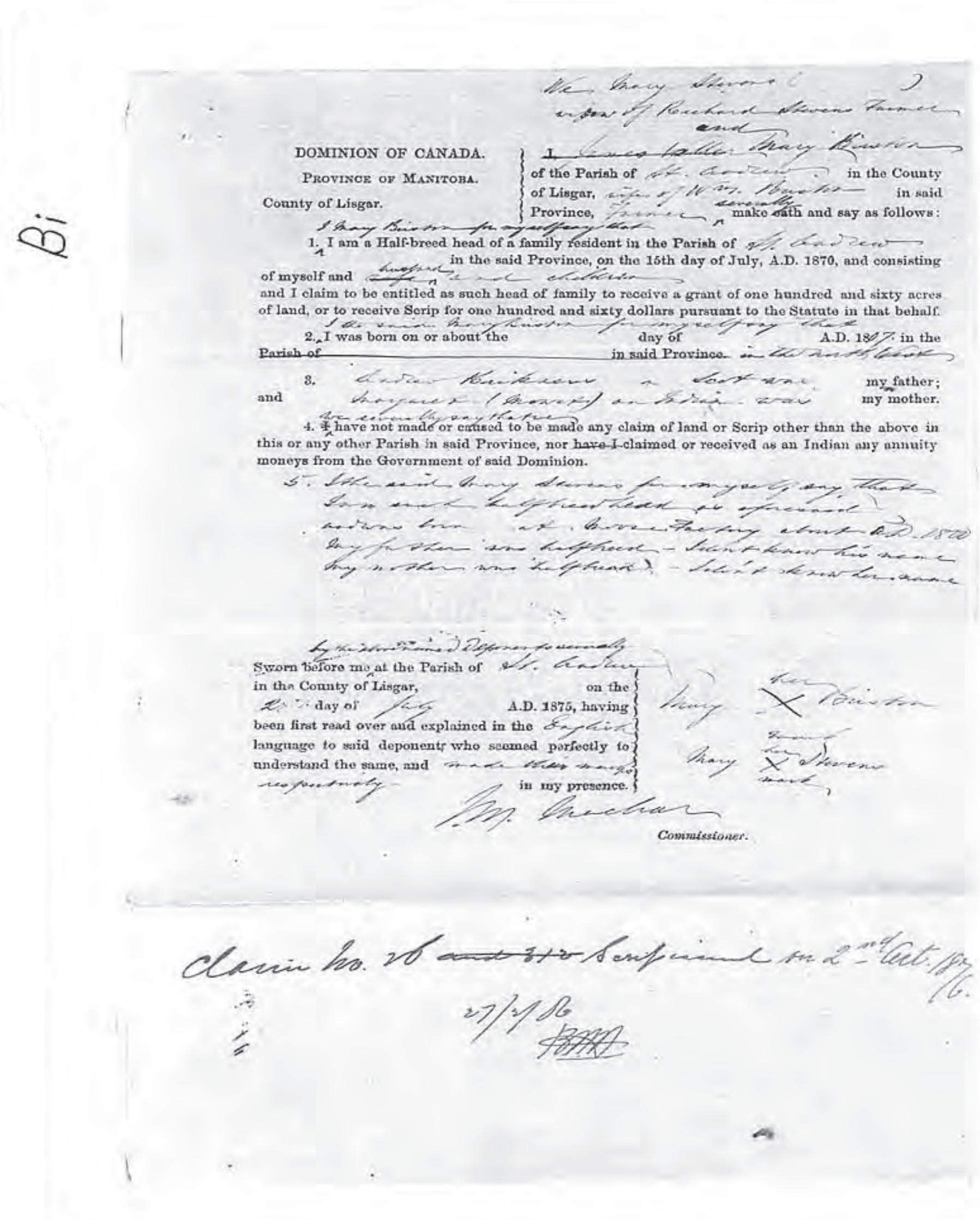


Stevens, Mary Maud

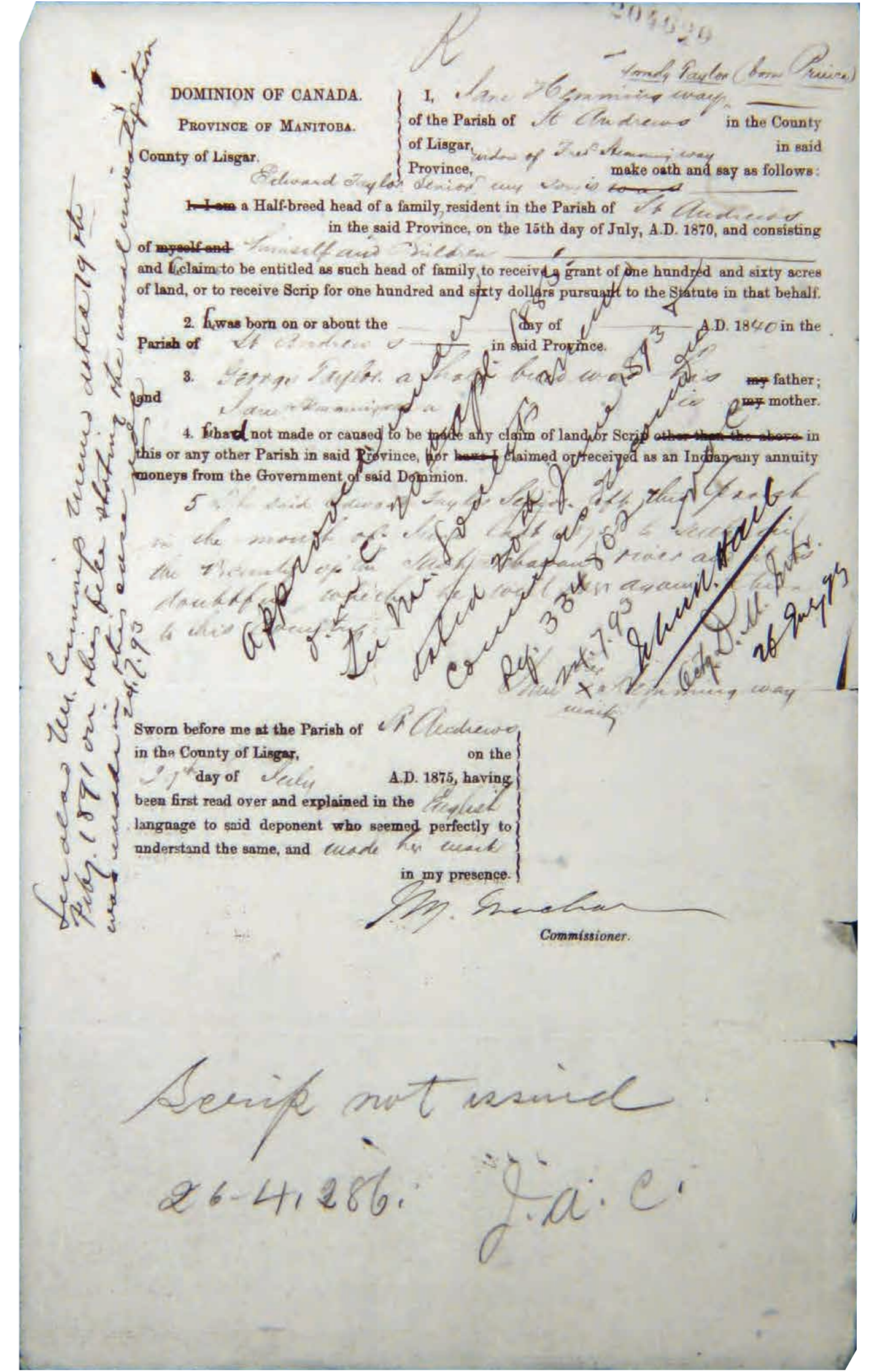




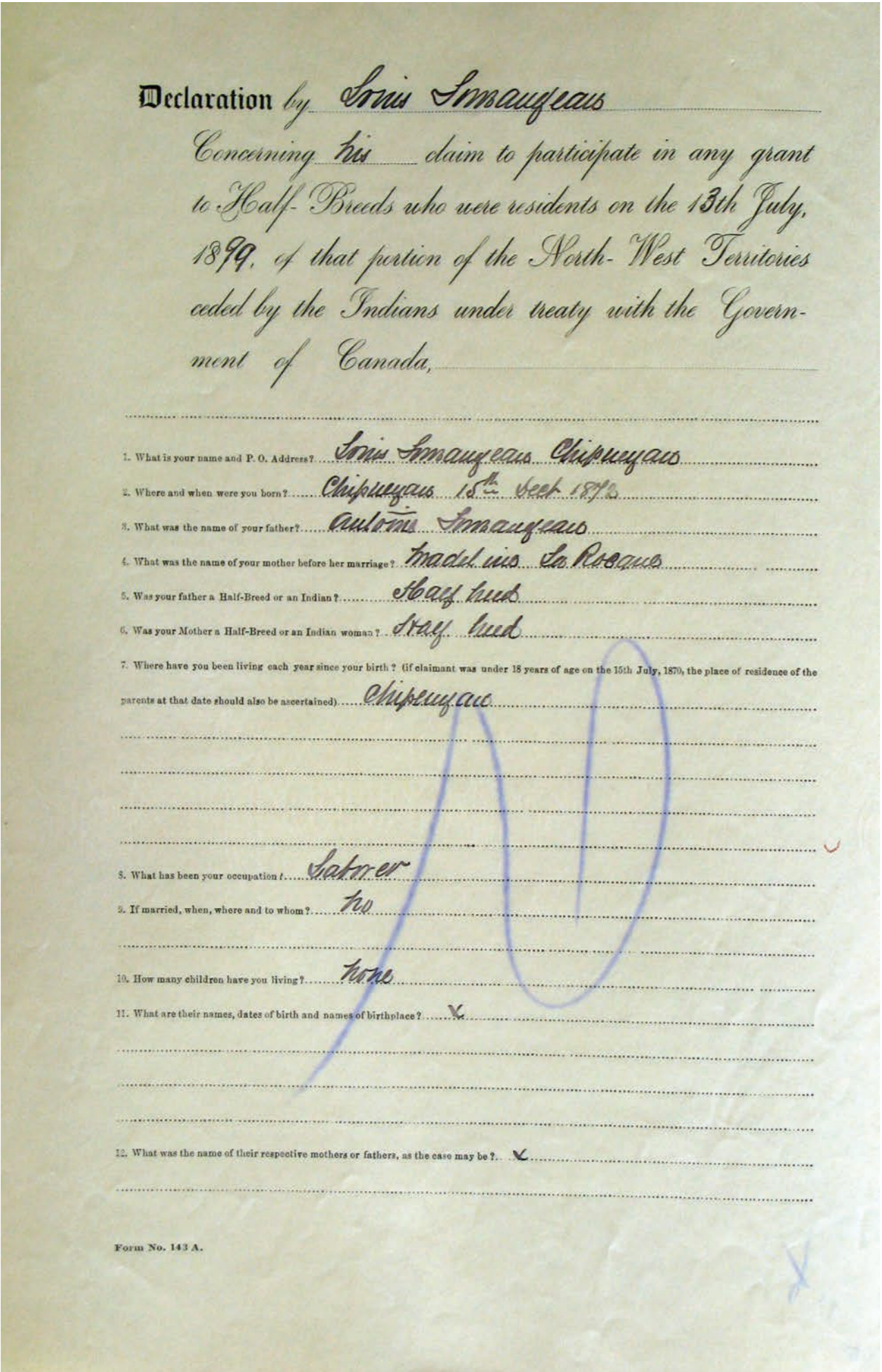
Stevens, William Richard



Stevens (Meenish), Mary O'Connor



Taylor, Edward Prince



Tourangeau, Louis

