**15August 2025-7-*Countrymen***

***Countrymen: The writings of John Norquay and friends among the Bungee/English-speaking Métis***

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Introduction

The first two sections of this file contain the writings of John Norquay, some clearly authored by him and others not, and an interview conducted in the early 1920s with his wife, Elizabeth Setter Norquay. The rest of the letters were written by family members and friends, all of whom were Bungee/English-speaking Métis. Two letters at the end of the collection offer views of the Métis written by an opponent (William Wagner) and a friend (James Wickes Taylor) of Norquay.

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1-**John Norquay’s writings**

Norquay left only a few articles and drafts of speeches. I suggest here that he probably wrote, dictated, or delivered as a speech the following six texts but none can be definitively attributed to him.

I would like to thank Kate Wiebe, who transcribed some of these texts and checked my transcriptions of the others.

a-1889[?] [John Norquay?]. “Notes on John Norquay” or“Subject of sketch is 2nd son of the late John Norquay of St Andrews…” NPP. G8731.

b-1889[?] J.N. [Norquay?]. “Sauteaux Indians,” *Dominion Illustrated: A Canadian*

*Pictorial Weekly*,14 September 1889, 166.

c-[1889?] [John Norquay?]. “Notes on Early Days in Manitoba,” NPP, G8731.

d-1880[?] [John Norquay?] “Old Time Sketches: No. 1 The Buffalo Hunt,” in *The Canadian North-West* 1, no. 1 (January 1880): 2-4.

e-1889[?] [John Norquay?] in Margaret Arnett MacLeod. “A Note on the Red River Hunt by John Norquay,” *Canadian Historical Review* 38, no. 2 (1957): 129–30.

f-1884 Norquay, John. *Province of Manitoba, Second Session, Fifth Legislature: Budget Speech Delivered by Hon. John Norquay, Premier and Provincial Treasurer, April 16th, 1884*. Winnipeg: n.p., 1884.

**a-“Notes on John Norquay” (ca. 1889) NPP, G8731, Archives of Manitoba**

This unsigned handwritten biographical note in the Norquay Premiers Papers is accurate and remarkably detailed. It might have been prepared by Norquay for the use of someone who was introducing him, perhaps at one of his public lectures.

John Norquay

Subject of sketch is 2nd son of the late John Norquay of St Andrews & first saw light of

day on May 8th 1841. He is of Orcadian descent his grandfather having left South Ronaldshay

one of the Orkney Islands about the beginning of this present century to enter the HB Co service & after serving some time in the Saskn- district settled on the banks of the Red River about the year 1830.

Mr. Norquay’s education was commenced in the old parish school of St. Johns now

within the limits of the city of Winnipeg when he developed such talents that he was taken hold notice of by the late Bp Anderson who in 1853 procured his admission as a student to St. John’s College. In 1854 Mr. Norquay won a scholarship which entitled him to board & tuition free and ten pounds sterling. The future statesman in the meantime plodded through Nepos Caesar Sallust Ovid Horace Virgil Xenophon Homer & Sophocles little dreaming that the knowledge he was then acquiring would be the groundwork for his future success as a leader of men.

Mr. Norquay after leaving College entered upon his duties as a School teacher to which he devoted seven years of his life winning the respect and gratitude of the people among whom his lot was cast.

In June 1862 Mr Norquay married Elizabeth second daughter of George Setter Esq at that time of St. Andrews but now of Poplar Point by whom he has 5 sons & two daughters. In 1867 Mr. Norquay moved to High Bluff when Cincinnatus like he followed the plough until invited by Gov Archibald to take a seat in the Cabinet in 1871.

In the genl election that took place on the creation of Manitoba as a province Mr. Norquay was the only member on the English speaking and Protestant side of the community that was returned by acclamation. This was the first public tribute paid to the embryo statesman by his ~~neghbors~~ countrymen who reposed confidence in him & who have been well repaid by his enlightened management of the affairs of his province for so lengthened a period~~. They have welcomed with pride his career~~ through such a central time in her history. They delight to point to him as the equal if not superior of any public man that has aspired to the Government of the Country & well they may for though the future may produce Mr. Norquay’s equal there is no public man in the Province today that possesses the confidence of the people to the same extent as does Mr. Norquay, & he greatly merits it.

**b-“Sauteaux Indians,” *The Dominion Illustrated: A Canadian Pictorial Weekly*, 14 September 1889, p166**

This brief note is signed “J.N.” and Norquay may be the author.

“SAUTEAUX INDIANS -- The Sauteaux Indians of Manitoba are some of the remains of the Great Algonquin nation, which at one time spread over British America and a great portion of the United States. The language spoken by them varies somewhat according to the several communities in different localities, but is generally understood by them all, being derived from one parent stock, so that a person understanding the Sauteaux or Cree language could travel over the greater portions of British America and the North-western States of the union without serious inconvenience, so far as making himself understood was concerned. Those living along the great inland lakes pursue the peaceful avocations of hunting, fishing and trapping, while those living on the borders of the vast prairies indulged in the more risky pastime of hair-lifting and horse-stealing from their fellow-nomads of these limitless regions, a diversion frequently attended with fatal results to themselves. Since the advent of the Mounted Police and the disappearance of the buffalo, they have, perforce, been obliged to adopt the more profitable but, to them, less congenial, occupation of tilling the soil. Settled on their respective reserves, they have, in many instances, developed into practical and successful farmers, and their nomadic propensities are fast yielding to the more elevating and profitable habits of settled life. The transition has not, indeed, been unaccompanied with hard struggles, as anyone acquainted with Indian character knows the disdain and contempt with which the proud brave regards labour, looking upon it as being only fit for squaws. With the example of the enterprising white man before him, surrounding himself with comfort as the result of his labour, the Indian is not slow to profit thereby and now watches, with as much care and anxiety as does his white brother, the changes of atmosphere that will either crown his labour with success or doom it to failure. The bounty which he receives annually from the Government is not now frittered away in baubles, but is devoted to increasing the comfort of his family and stocking the farm. Strange as it may appear, the Indian of the Lakes has not applied himself with the same zeal to the adoption of civilized habits as his brother of the prairies. But the explanation lies in the fact that to the former is as accessible as ever the source of supply in the lakes and forests. In his birch bark canoe, he has the means of locomotion and the change so delightful to him, and in summer he generally works from one place to another, staying longest where fish (which is his staple article food) is most abundant. Supplied by the birch tree with both house and boat, supplemented with his annuity from the Government, which procures him the requisites for fishing and hunting, the necessity for the adoption of civilized labour as a means of existence has not forced itself on him so forcibly as it has done in the case of the prairie Indian. Hence the difference in their adaptability to settled habits of living. --J.N.”

***The Dominion Illustrated* 14 September 1889 p.166**

(below)



**c-“Notes on early days in Manitoba” (ca. 1889)**

This unsigned, handwritten text, written in pencil on six half-sheets of paper, is shelved in the Norquay Premiers Papers, file G8731. It appears to be a draft prepared by Norquay, probably for a lecture that was mentioned in contemporary documents. The title has been added by the archivists (there is no title on the sheaf of pages). The writing appears to be Norquay’s. [NPP G8731, last file]

**The text begins on p 2 – p 1 is missing:**

“that province. Being of an adventurous spirit he [LaVerendrye] pushed his explorations as far west as the Red River where he built a fort called Fort Rouge at the confluence of the Red & Assiniboine Rivers about the year 1730 which from that date became the resort of Trappers & Traders from Montreal & other cities in Quebec who went by the name of Coureurs de bois or Forest Rangers a name peculiarly applicable to them from the wooded character of the country they traversed[.] Eventually a chain of posts was established all the way to Fort William at the mouth of the Kaministiquia River and a lively and energetic trade maintained by these hardy pioneers whose enterprise was amply repaid by the large profits they secured on the sale of their furs. The said Monsr [?] of de la Verandrye[sic] was an ancestor of His Grace ArchBp Tache & it is a strange coincidence that his descendant should have worked so long & so successfully in the country that the Enterprise of the ancestor discovered.

The Hudson Bay Co who had obtained a charter in 1670 saw that unless they pushed their

business into the Interior these traders would monopolize the profits of the western part of the

Territory & accordingly began extending their operations into the western prairies. Their wealth

and system of organization proved too much for the unorganized efforts of the Quebec Traders to

compete with. so in 1783 they united their disintegrated Elements into one strong organization

called the North West Company composed principally of Montreal capitalists. This company

grew to such dimensions that at one time they employed as many as 5000 servants which

constituted a very formidable opposition to the HBC whom they regarded as opulent and

intolerant rivals & disputed their right to ~~supremacy~~ in [?] any ~~Chartered~~ privilege accorded them by their charter. it was not an unusual occurrence when their emissaries met for blows to be exchanged when the strongest came off best generally. In those days might was right there being no means by which justice or redress could be obtained other than what the generosity or scruples of your opponent might dictate.

In the year 1811 The Hon Thos Douglas fifth Earl of Selkirk at that time a ~~prominent~~ ~~-member-~~Governor and a large shareholder of the Hudson Bay Compy obtained from that corpn a grant ~~of 16,000~~ of 16,000 square miles or an area of about 10 ¼ million acres of land. His Lordship who possessed a philanthropic disposition conceived the idea of transplanting some of his countrymen from the Highlands of Scotland to the vast Estate he had acquired & being a man of energy he did not content himself with theorizing over the scheme but went to work & chartered a vessel forthwith in which 100 Scotch Highlanders including women & children embarked for their new home. In course of time they landed at York Factory but too late to proceed to their destination. There not being sufficient stores and accommodation for this addition to their numbers the authorities at the factory advised them to proceed to Churchill a post one hundred miles north on the shores of Hudson Bay where they passed the winter. In the summer of 1812 they ~~arrived~~ resumed their journey to Red River where they arrived after a tedious and trying journey. here instead of being allowed to locate peaceably they were met by a band of painted savages & halfbreeds instigated by the North West Company to deter them from settling who threatened them with immediate destruction if they persisted in remaining. The colonists entirely unprepared for such a reception and alarmed for the safety of their wives & children made arrangements for moving to Pembina a Post belonging to the Hudson Bay Company about seventy miles distant They secured the services of some Indians and halfbreeds to take their children along & found that when removed from the hostile influences of the North West Company these children of nature were not insensible to the dictates of Kindness & ~~generosity~~ humanity. Tis true that oftentimes rude jokes were perpetrated by the Indians upon their [protegees?] which provoked a considerable degree of alarm. For instance sometimes a painted savage would catch up some toddling youngster and gallop away ahead with his prize much to the delight ~~of his~~ and exhilaration of the child but greatly to the fear of the loving and agonized mother whose solicitude ~~for her child’s safety~~ conjured up in her mind all sorts of fancies regarding the fate of her child when the Indian would return the child much amused at the groundless fears entertained by its fond mother during its temporary abduction. The colonists passed a precarious winter at Pembina oftentimes verging on actual starvation, their protectors & purveyors being scarcely able to ~~keep themselves~~ supply them with the actual necessaries of life. In the spring of 1813 they returned to the Settlement ~~planted~~ sowed some wheat which was obtained from Fort Alexander a trading post on the SE of Lake Winnipeg but the return they obtained not being sufficient to maintain them they had again to resort to Pembina some few going to Lake Winnipeg where they subsisted by fishing, returning to the colony in the spring & prosecuting as well as their limited means would permit farming on a small scale. To aggravate matters a Mr. Miles McDonnell Governor of the colony anticipating an accession to ~~their members~~ the colony & anxious to make provision issued a proclamation putting an embargo upon the traffic or removal of provisions of any kind, whatsoever except sufficient to take traders to their destination. This proclamation dated 8 [7?] Jany 1814 [Fort Daer??] appears to have given serious offence to all parties and as usual in such cases the feeling of hostility to the colonists whom it was intended to befriend was intensified. It further nearly divided the colonists themselves who for their protection had to a certain extent to espouse the side of the NW Co who were considered the strongest party. They passed the following winter in this semi bellicose attitude towards each other but managed in spring to reassemble in the colony & go to work as usual without any collusion having occurred ~~As their ??? ??? ??? permit farming on a ??? scale. Our ??? history was about a ??? of the proceeding. In the meantime the hostility between the two companies did not abate & for a time it looked as if the ??? would be divided by opposing different sides in the fight between~~ and it was not long before Mr. McDonnell was made to pay the penalty of his indiscretion by being made a prisoner having the colonial establishment where all stores & supplies for the colonists were kept destroyed & a Mr. Warren killed. This was followed by a counter proclamation issued by Cuthbert Grant, Bostonais Pangman, Wm Shaw & Bonhomme Montour four chiefs of the halfbreeds peremptorily ordering all the colonists away & forbidding them to return under a penalty of being killed. Some of them took refuge at Norway House & …. [p 15 missing]”

“…against the unfortunate colonists a band of sixty five with hostile intent composed of

Indians, halfbreeds & some white men in sympathy with the North West Company. The first

intimation that the authorities had of this contemplated attack upon the colony was given by the

women & children rushing into the fort for protection. Robert Semple who had been appointed

Governor of the colony being apprised of the state of affairs went out to meet the advancing

hostiles accompanied by twenty-seven [sic] The Governor’s action has been very adversely

criticized it being contended that unless he had a sufficient force to overawe the insurgents he

should have proceeded with one or two attendants unarmed & seen what negotiations could have

been effected whereby the infant colony would have been unmolested but his proceeding to meet

them with an armed force must have been looked upon by the advancing party as a challenge:

when added to this through the blundering of one of the Govr’s party a gun going off

accidentally was immediately accepted as a commencement of hostilities on the part of the

Governor & his party whether this version be true or not a collision took place at Seven Oaks

near the present residence of Sheriff Inkster whereby 21 out of the party of 28 were slain only

one being killed on the other side and one wounded. Among the slain was Governor Semple who

fell at the second shot. The whole party would have been exterminated were it not for the heroic

conduct of Cuthbert Grant the leader of the ½ br [sic] who at the imminent risk of his own life

rushed in between the combatants & prevented the further destruction of life. Again the colony

was broken up & the scattered remnants thereof were strictly enjoined under pain of forfeiture of

their lives never to set foot on the banks of Red River again. They were put in boats and

peremptorily ordered to leave. Most of them went to Norway House a Hudson Bay post at the

north end of Lake Winnipeg & some left for Canada as some had done the year previous at the

instance & under the representations of a Highlander of the name of Cameron who had been

employed by the North West Co to induce the colonists to leave leading them to believe that they

would receive from the NW Co a grant of 200 acres of land each. Tis needless to add that this

was only a ruse to induce settlers to leave & that those who were simple enough to put

confidence in these promises were doomed to disappointment. In the meantime the Earl of

Selkirk anxious about the fate of his colonists determined to visit the colony personally. Having

heard of the hostility manifested toward his people he was naturally solicitous of the welfare of

those whom he had been instrumental in inducing to migrate to that distant land. Accordingly he

set sail for New York in the summer of 1815 & would have proceeded direct to Red River but he

had to visit two other colonies that he had on his hands at the time, one in Lake St. Clair & the

other at the mouth of the Grand River in Ontario. After he had got through with his visit to these

two colonies he was prostrated by sickness and thus delayed from prosecuting his journey that

year. In the meantime he proceeded to Montreal & engaged a body of eighty men belonging to

the De Meuron regiment so named after the Colonel who commanded them. He agreed to pay

these men a certain amount for canoe service from Lachine to Red River and to fetch them back

to Montreal or to England as they desired or to give them a ~~certain~~ grant of land in the colony if they so preferred. Having armed himself with a commission of the peace he started for the colony, on his way at the Sault he heard of the fight at Seven Oaks & the disastrous consequences. On his arrival at Fort William his Lordship determined upon the arrest of Mr. McGillivray the chief officer of the North West Co on a charge of murder, arson & robbery, & having ascertained that there were other officers of the NWCo at the fort although his escort consisted only of 80 men while the retainers & sympathisers of the NWCo numbered about 200 in the true spirit of the Douglas he counted not the odds but boldly arrested them all and sent them down to Toronto then known as York to stand their trial for the offences already cited.

In course of time he arrived at Red River and succeeded in inspiring the colonists with some of his own spirit and determination. He immediately set to work to restore order out of chaos & his energy and interest in the welfare of the Colony inspired the despirited settlers with a degree of confidence never before [?] by them.

The first men to enter the fort on the arrival of His Lordship were Lambert & Vandal two citizens well known to the old inhabitants of the country. In 1817 His Lordship concluded a treaty with the Indian chiefs of the Saulteaux and Cree Nations whereby he extinguished the Indian title to as much of the lands as he deemed necessary for settlement. before leaving for home he called the settlers together reiterated the promises he had made to them on inducing them to leave their homes & as an earnest of fulfilment thereof set apart lots 3 & 4 for school & church sites. These sites though originally intended for church & school in connection with the Presbyterian religion subsequently were built upon by the Church Missionary Society & now belong to the Anglican Church & being respectively the church & school lots of St. John’s parish. His Lordship returned in the autumn of that year by way of St. Peters on the Mississipi[sic] a small town west of Saint Paul. The year 1818 was one of disaster to the Colonists their crops being devastated by grasshoppers. They had commenced the year by planting all the seed they could gather and when everything gave promise of success their hopes were suddenly dashed to the ground by the arrival of a flight of grasshoppers which speedily

demolished ~~every~~ the fruits of their labor and left the colony nearly in a state of absolute despair. ~~Then only~~  A few heads of barley partially ripe gleaned in the aprons of the wives was all that was saved & then were carefully preserved for seed the next season. ~~This again~~ To add to the distress of the colony their faithful and devoted lay pastor who had ministered to their spiritual wants was wantonly arrested by the agents of the North WCo[sic] and conveyed as prisoner to Canada. The Colonists had been promised a clergyman of their persuasion on leaving Scotland and a Mr. Sage [?] son of the Rev Alex Sage of the parish of Kildonan was to have accompanied them but he not being conversant with the Gaelic language stayed over a year to perfect himself in the Gaelic before joining the colonists. It was a matter of grievous disappointment to them that he never came and Mr. Sutherland was authorized in the meantime to solemnize baptisms & marriages which he did until forcibly removed as has already been stated. As if to aggravate the forlorn condition of the colonists several families arrived from Canada accompanied by two priests thus the colonists had the humiliation of witnessing the enviable position of their fellow colonists enjoying the exercise of their religion under the guidance of their spiritual advisers while they themselves were deprived of the services of their faithful lay pastor and no substitute sent them. The winter of 1818 & 19 was again spent at Pembina and in the spring of 1819 they sowed the few heads of barley that had been saved from the grasshoppers the year previous but the larvae of the grasshoppers deposited the year before produced such a swarm of grasshoppers that in a short time rendered ~~futile~~ abortive all the efforts & providence of the poor Colonists. Again they had to resort to Pembina but now having from their repeated resorts to this mode of living acquired the art of killing buffalo & become acquainted with the habits & mode of life of the hunter they were enabled to ~~process the~~ enter into this sort of life with a success and a zest that nearly succeeded in inducing them to give up the more [?] hitherto precarious means of making a living by cultivating the soil. Besides which this free & untrammelled life of a hunter had a certain charm that the plodding of a farmer’s life did not possess & were it not for that strong substratum of common sense that is an inseparable feature of Scottish character the colonists might have degenerated into semi barbarian hunters instead of the persevering farmer who has indelibly printed his individuality in the civilization of this country. So infectious is contact with roving habits that there was great danger of relapse instead of progress & the cradle of civilization was well nigh converted into the transitory home of the Nomad of the prairies.

1820 wheat from Prairie du Chien

1821 grasshoppers again & Swiss colonists arrive & have to resort to Pembina again

“Churches built …” – list of 13 Anglican buildings with date of construction [perhaps the beginning of another lecture, this one to be on Anglican church history in Red River??]

[**End of document][2647 words]**

**d-“Old Time Sketches: No. 1 The Buffalo Hunt,” in *The Canadian North-West* 1, no. 1 (January 1880): 2-4.** This unsigned article might be a collaboration between Alex Begg, who prepared this journal’s only issue, and Norquay, whose name appears as an author on the cover of the journal but not in association with this article or anywhere else in the publication. It is similar to a second note on the hunt, which follows this 1880 sketch, that has been attributed to Norquay.

**OLD TIME SKETCHES.**

**NO. 1**

THE BUFFALO HUNT

We will suppose that all the hunters who intend to take part in the “Great Fall Hunt” have assembled together at the appointed rendezvous from which they are to start on their long journey over the plains. The camp is situated near the river, and the elevated plain on the immediate banks of the stream is covered with a motley grouping of carts, canvas tents, smoke brown leather *tepees,* and, in lieu of other shelter, small squares of cotton or rawhide stretched from cart to cart, or over a rough framework of poles. For miles around, the prairie is alive with ponies, hoppled, tied to lariat-pins, or dragging about poles as a preventive against straying. Mingled with this kicking, neighing herd, wander hundreds of oxen, and patient, lowing kine, the youthful vivacity of which has given place to middle-aged steadiness. Through this compact mass of animal life gallop with a wild scurry, from time to time, half nude boys, breaking a narrow pathway in search of some needed ox or pony, or hurrying the whole struggling mass riverward. In the camp, the sole occupation of the day is the pursuit of pleasure. From every tent and shelter comes the sound of laughter; every campfire furnishes its quota of jest and song. Here a small, but excited circle, gathered under the shade of a cart, are deeply interested in gambling by what is known as the “moccasin game.” In an empty moccasin are placed sundry buttons and bullets, which, being shaken up, involve the guessing of the number in the shoe. The ground is covered with guns, capotes and shirts, the volatile half-breed often stripping the clothing from his back to satisfy his passion for play, or staking his last horse and cart. There, another light-minded party are gambling with cards, the stakes being a medley of everything portable owned by the players. In many tents rum is holding an orgy, and the clinking of cups, boisterous laughter and song, tell of the presence of the direst enemy of the hunter. In another quarter, feasting is the order of the day, and the small stock of provisions designed to supply the family until the buffalo were reached, is being devoured at a sitting. About the many campfires stand, or crouch, the wives of the hunters, busily engaged in culinary operations, or gossiping with neighbors, while their numerous, scantily-attired offspring play about in the dust and dirt with wolfish-looking dogs. The baby of the family, fastened to a board, leans against a cart wheel, doubtless revolving in his infantile mind subtle questions pertinent to babyhood. Gathered in a circle apart are likely to be found the aged leaders of the hunt. engaged in discussion of the weightier matters of the time: but, from the broad smiles lighting up their bronzed features at times, it is doubtful whether many of the subjects are relevant. Here and there can be seen long haired Paganinis drawing rude melodies from antiquated and fractured violins. About them are congregated crowds of delighted hearers, suggesting new tunes, requesting the loan of the instrument long enough to show their skill, or, seized with the infection, suddenly breaking into an improvised break-down, or executing a *pas seul* the very embodiment of caricature. The evening, and well on into the night, is spent in boisterous dissipation, and the women disappear from the campfires, and betake themselves to tents out of harm’s way. With the first glow of coming dawn the camp rouses itself into life and vigor again. The headaches and fevers engendered by the debauch of the previous night are carried patiently by their owners to the river’s brink, and bathed in its cooling waters. The women once more appear about the camp fires, clad in dark blue calico, busied in preparations for the morning meal. Their lords stand moodily near to obtain a share of the heat; for the mornings are chilly and raw.

Immediately after breakfast of the day previous to that appointed for departure from the rendezvous, all the males of the camp repair to a point a short distance off upon the prairie, where, gathered in a huge circle, they proceed to the election of officers for their coming hunt. A chief and twelve counsellors are elected, and being necessarily men of experience, are chosen from the elderly men of the camp. Four captains are next elected from the middle-aged hunters. men of determined mould and tried courage, whose duty is to command the soldiers of the camp, who become the police of the hunt, mounting guard against the Indians, arranging the shape of the camp, keeping watch over private property, arresting offenders, etc. Lastly, four guides are elected, who are to lead the train in the direction indicated by the chief and counsellors. This position, involving a thorough knowledge of the country, is always filled from the ranks of the older hunters, whose many years of service have rendered them acquainted with every foot of the territory to be traversed. The following code of laws, which varies a little, perhaps, in phraseology from year to year, but is generally of the following substance, is framed before the crowd disperses:

1. No running of buffalo is permitted on the Sabbath day.

2. No member of the hunt to lag behind, go before, or fork off from the main body, unless by special permission of the chief.

3. No person or party to run buffalo before the general order is given, in which the entire hunt may participate.

4 Every captain, with his men, to patrol the camp in turn, in order that a continued watch may be kept.

Penalties. – For the first offence, the saddle and bridle of the offender to be cut up.

2 The offender to have his coat cut up.

3. The offender to be publicly flogged.

Any penalty is foregone, however, if the guilty party pay a stipulated sum in money, meat or robes, for each offence. In case of theft, the perpetrator is to be taken to the middle of the camp, his name called aloud thrice, the word “thief” being added. The train now continues on its route until at length the scouts, who for days have been scouring the prairie in every direction, bring the welcome intelligence of the discovery of the main herds of buffalo. The line of the march is at once turned toward the point indicated, and the laws against firing and leaving the main body are rigidly enforced. The long train moves cautiously and as silently as possible, advantage is taken of depressions in the prairie to keep the train concealed from the buffalo, and not a sound is raised that may give warning of its presence. Approach is made as closely as may be compatible with safety, always keeping to windward of the herd. Then, if a convenient locality is reached, camp is made, and busy preparations for the ensuing hunt begin. Guns are carefully scanned, powder flasks and bullet-pouches filled, saddles and bridles examined, and, above all, the horses to be used in the chase are carefully groomed, for highest among his possessions the plain-hunter ranks his “buffalo-runner.” It is to him, like the Arab’s steed, a daily comrade to be petted and spoken to, the companion of his long journeys and the means of his livelihood.

Before daybreak on the following morning, for a chase is seldom begun late in the day, the great body of hunters are off under the guidance of scouts in pursuit of the main herd. A ride of an hour or more brings them within, say a mile of the buffalo, which have been moving slowly off as they approached. The hunt, up to this time, has moved in four columns, with every man in his place. As they draw nearer at a gentle trot, the immense herd breaks into a rolling gallop. Now the critical and long-desired moment has arrived. The chief gives the signal. “Allee!” “Allee!” he shouts, and a thousand reckless riders dash forward at a wild run. Into the herd they penetrate; along with its sides they stretch, the trained horses regulating their pace to that of the moving mass beside them; guns flash, shots and yells resound; the dust arises in thick clouds over the struggling band; and the chase sweeps rapidly over the plain, leaving its traces behind in the multitude of animals lying dead upon the ground, or feebly struggling in their death-throes. The hunter pauses not a moment, but loads and fires with the utmost rapidity, pouring in his bullets at the closest range, often almost touching the animal he aims at. To facilitate the rapidity of fire, he uses a flint-lock, smooth-bore trading gun, and enters the chase with his mouth filled with bullets. A handful of powder is let fall from the powder horn, a bullet is dropped from the mouth into the muzzle, a tap with the butt-end of the firelock on the saddle causes the salivated bullet to adhere to the powder during the moment necessary to depress the barrel, when the discharge is instantly effected without bringing the gun to the shoulder. Sometimes it happens that the excitement of the hunt accidents occur, and the ball intended for the buffalo strikes some unfortunate rider; at other times, guns explode, carrying away part of the hands using them; and even the most expert runners sometimes find their way into badger holes. breaking or dislocating the collar bones of the riders in the fall.

The identification of the slain animals is left till the run is over. This is accomplished by means of marked bullets, the locality in which the animal lies, for which the hunters always keeps a sharp lookout, and the spot where the bullet entered. By the time the hunters begin to appear, returning from their chase, there have arrived long trains of carts from the camp, to carry back the meat and robes. The animals having been identified, the work of skinning and cutting up begins, in which the women and children participate. In a remarkably brief time the plain is strewed with skeletons stripped of flesh. and the well loaded train is on its return. Arrived at camp, the robes are at once stretched upon a framework of poles, and the greater part of the flesh scraped from them, after which they are folded and packed away for the final dressing. The choice portions of the meat are used in a fresh state, but large quantities are converted into pemmican, in which shape it finds its readiest market.

**e- “A Note on the Red River Hunt by John Norquay,” edited by Margaret Arnett MacLeod, in *Canadian Historical Review* 38, no. 2 (June 1957), 129-30**

[I have not seen the original but take its authorship on faith because MacLeod knew the family and worked with them in preparing this note.]

**MacLeod’s Introduction:** “Few participants in the buffalo hunts of the Red River half-breeds left any extensive account of the organization and conduct of the hunt. This fact lends interest to the following description found among the papers of John Norquay, native of Red River and Premier of Manitoba, 1878-87. The authenticity of the document is witnessed by Norquay's daughter, Mrs. J. E. McAllister of Winnipeg. The period it refers to is not indicated, but as Norquay was born in 1841, it is reasonable to suppose that he followed the buffalo hunt some time between his late 'teens and the date of the last hunt, 1874. This would suggest that the account refers to the decade of 1860-70, when the organization of the annual hunts was at its peak. The date of composition is unknown. The description on the whole merely confirms those already known. But it does add a certain immediacy to other descriptions and it does give the times at which the summer and the fall hunts set out. The point about the hiring of women to prepare the dried meat and pemmican seems to be novel.” Margaret Arnett MacLeod

**Text:**

“The hunters of the Plains were usually French Halfbreeds though men of other Nationalities, Scotch, Irish, English and Indians often indulged in the thrilling sport of running Buffalo.

There were two regular hunts, the summer and fall hunts. The summer hunt was begun usually by the first week in June.

Two brigades, one from the main river (Red River) and one from White Horse plain usually joined forces and together treked to the haunts of the Buffalo.

The first few days out they travelled slowly to enable the ponies to graze by the way and to conserve their strength for the important part they were to play in the chase later on. No great order was observed till the caravan was several days out when a Council was held Officers or Captains chosen, men detailed for duty, guards, scouts etc., rules and regulations laid down and proclaimed to the whole party. All were warned of dire penalty if due obedience was not paid to them. For instance. No one was allowed to branch away from the main body of hunters--infraction of this rule has been punished by the destruction of a man's entire outfit--also if a man ran a Buffalo without telling his fellow hunters--the results of the chase were confiscated and given to the poorer of the band.

Guards did regular sentry duty. The sentry were visited just as in a Military Camp and woe betide the guard found asleep at his post.

Scouts went ahead of the band to locate Buffalo or to warn the party of any hostile Indians.

When game was sighted a signal was given--if near water[,] camp was made and preparations immediately begun for the chase. Each hunter selected his best horse. Saw to it that his powder horn was filled and a good supply of bullets in his pouch. All ready the hunters proceeded leisurely in the direction of the herd. A nobler sight could scarcely be witnessed than a band of two or three hundred of the most skilful riders advancing evenly, their horses champing their bits and entering fully into the enthusiasm of the moment.

A little in advance and on each flank rode a captain restraining the eager and impulsive by word or gesture until they had got so near that even the poorest mount would have a fair chance of overtaking his quarry.

When the word was given the whole troop shot forward like arrows from a bow the best mounted taking the lead and often securing as many as ten or twelve animals. The quickness with which an experienced hunter would select the fattest cow or the finest young bull was perfectly marvelous. A good average hunt was six animals.

The horses became so accustomed to the chase that immediately one animal was shot they turned to pursue another, the hunter meanwhile reloading his gun. The horse knew by the rattle of the butt of the gun against the saddle that it was ready for service and at once closed up to the game. That shot being fired the performance was repeated.

At the end of the run the prairie would be dotted with dead Buffalo. The work of skinning and cutting up the meat to be dried by sun or slow fire was undertaken by the women who were hired for that purpose. When the meat was sufficiently dried it was pulverized, mixed with fat and stored in bags made of the Buffalo hide. These bags of pemican weighed as much at 120 pounds. Much of the dried meat was packed in bales in layers. The back or boss and tongues were preserved as a great delicacy.

Meat preserved in this manner kept a long time. It formed the chief staple of food for a large number 'of people who never had a pound of bread from one year to another.

The fall hunt started about the 1st of October and ended about the middle of November. Sometimes earlier according to the time taken to come up with the Buffalo. As there was no preserving to be done the meat was cut up and loaded onto carts and taken to the settlement. Caravans of as many as a thousand carts were brought home laden with meat for the whole winter.

Buffalo steaks are very delicious, the gamy quality giving it a very fine flavour.”

**MacLeod’s note:** “The most informative [first-hand accounts] are those of Rev. G. A. Belcourt, "Buffalo Hunt," *Beaver*, Dec., 1944, and other sources cited in J. M. Reardon, *George Anthony Belcourt, Pioneer Catholic Missionary of the Northwest, 1803-1874: His Life and Times* (St. Paul, 1955), 68-72, 210 n. 64; and Alexander Ross, *The Red River Settlement: Its Rise, Progress and Present Condition* (London, 1856), 241-74. To these should be added Louis Riel, "Le Métis du nord-ouest," in A. H. de Trémaudan, *Histoire de la nation métisse dans l'ouest canadien* (Montreal, 1935), 438-9. »

**f-“Budget speech delivered by Hon. John Norquay, premier and provincial treasurer, April 16th, 1884** (Winnipeg: Queen’s Printer, 1884)

This speech, delivered in the Manitoba legislature was printed in French and English for wide distribution. It was first made widely available in digital form at “University of Alberta – Peel’s Prairie Provinces” and is now available at Internet Archive:

<https://archive.org/details/P001270/page/n3/mode/2up?view=theater>

“Hon. John Norquay, Provincial Treasurer, rose, amid cheers, and moved, seconded by Hon. M. LaRivière, that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply, to consider the Message of His Honor, together with the estimates and the statements accompanying the same. The motion before the House, he said, will, no doubt, evoke a wide range of discussion; and Hon. members will need to have ample explanations both as to the course to be pursued by the Government in the future, as well as a defence of their actions in the past. In moving the House into Committee of Supply, Hon. members will observe, that the estimates placed before them range very nearly equal to those voted a year ago for the public expenditure of the Province,-giving color to the view that our normal expenditure, as a Province, has about arrived at that stage when it may be considered in a measure stationary,-or, at least, the normal expendi-

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ture of last year and the present may be considered. I think, very good indices of our future necessities in that direction (hear, hear). In order to realize thoroughly our position to-day as a Province in confederation, it will be necessary for us to take a retrospective view of events. It will be necessary to look back to the time when we became confederated, and were started into political existence in 1870 by investment with the constitution given us, known as the Manitoba Act. In that year we were placed, financially, in a position which might have appeared to be a good one in the eyes of those unacquainted with the responsibilities of self-government. But it was an illusion soon to be dispelled. We find a reference to the terms on which we entered confederation in 1870, that the financial position accorded us was such that our revenue when all its sources were reckoned up, reached $67,204.50. To a community accustomed to meet all its necessities out of a much smaller sum, this appeared to be a very extravagant and generous provision made by the Parliament of Canada. Innocent as they were of the complications and cost of responsible Government. the people who received this subsidy for the first time might well be excused for thinking it a handsome one. They were, it is true, accustomed to a Government and had to pay for it, too; but it was a Government as simple as it was effective and inexpensive. By a reference to the early records of the old Colony of Assiniboia, we find that, as far back as 1835, Government obtained in this country to an extent not generally known. In that year the Governor of the Hudson’s Bay Company, Sir George Simpson, calling to his aid some of the most influential settlers to assist more fully in carrying out the object of Government here, made them a speech which, in light of present events, has a good deal of interest for us. It appears to have been the first of the kind ever delivered here on which any record is handed down to us; and its tenor indicates unmistakably that those old colonists understood and were resolved to maintain good government. Here is the speech, which corresponds to that delivered at the opening of each session of the Legislative Assembly now-a-days:

GENTLEMEN,--

In order to guard as much as possible against misapprehension within doors or misapprehension out of doors, I shall briefly notice the subject which I am now to bring under your consideration.

From the deep and timely interest you will feel in the welfare and prosperity of the colony, I am satisfied you will afford me the benefit of your assistance and support towards carrying into effect such measures as may appear to you best calculated, under existing circumstances, to answer every desirable object.

The population of this colony is becoming so great, amounting to about five (5,000) thousand souls, that the personal influence of the governor and the little more than nominal support afforded by the police--which together with the good feelings of the people have heretofore been its principal safe-guard- are no longer sufficient to maintain the tranquility, and good government of the settlement; so that although rights of property have of late been invaded and other serious offences been committed, I am concerned to say we are under the necessity of allowing them to pass unnoticed, because we have not the means at command of enforcing obedience and due respect according to the existing order of things.

Under such circumstances it must be evident to one and all of you that it is quite impossible society can hold together, and that the time has at length arrived when it becomes necessary to put the administration of justice on a more firm and regular footing than heretofore. Immediate steps must be taken to guard against dangers from abroad for difficulties at home, for the maintenance of good order and tranquility, and for the security and protection of lives and property.

Here is evidence to show that, long anterior Confederation, a community existed on the banks of Red River, in which obtained the regular forms of Government, not generally known such as they were. They might have been wanting in some particulars; but we are not left in any doubt of the fact, that, such as they were, they served their purpose admirably. Law and order were maintained and the interests of the community generally were subserved (hear, hear). As British subjects they had the enjoyment of their rights, -they enjoyed in a measure every right outside those guaranteed by elective and representative institutions (hear). And in pressing as we have done, and as we will continue to do that we, too, as British subjects should be allowed the full enjoyment of our rights, we call the attention of the Federal authorities to the fact I have just noted, and ask that the precedent established in Eastern Provinces be followed now,- we are pressing for that which was ours, in the olden time, and which will be ours yet again (loud cheers). It has been clearly established that nearly fifty years ago, law and order were maintained here on a firm basis; and the rights accorded to all civilised communities had been already enjoyed by those resident in the heart of the continent here, although they were then cut off from almost all communication with the outside world (hear, hear). I have pointed out that, on entering Confederation, the financial condition of the little community then established here, might have appeared to be a good one under the change. The exigencies of Government had been met up to that time by an expenditure of £200 or £300 at the utmost; and hence the allowance with which we set out on our career as a Province seemed a generous and extravagant one, the effect of which was to subdue alarm and take away all scruples to entering Confederation (hear, hear). Experience as I have said, soon dispelled the illusion. We had not been confederated four years until our expenditures were $150,000 ahead of our subsidies; and then the exigencies of responsible government began to manifest themselves very fully (hear, hear). In the beginning the improvement of highways along the river banks,-then the main arteries of travel,-might be said to be the principal item of expenditure. But with the increase of immigration, with settle-ments radiating from Fort Garry in all directions, attention had to be paid to highways and bridges in the interior of the Province, stretching far away from the old lines of travel. The expenditure, as a matter of course, grew rapidly and increased far beyond the income, a state of affairs necessitating frequent visits to Ottawa in order to find a remedy for an evil, which, in the long run, only grew worse (hear, hear). From 1871, till the present time,-with the exception, perhaps, of one year, the people of this country had been obliged to send their representatives on these annual pilgrimages to Ottawa, to insist on effecting such an adjustment of their position as would enable them to carry on the work of self-government, (hear, hear). They made their wants fully known at Ottawa; and over and over again pressed for the settlement to which they were fairly entitled, (cheers). And if these representatives had not been met in the spirit in which, on entering confederation, the people had every reason to believe they would be met,-if they had resulted in merely partial measures of relief,- if there had been no full concession of the claims frequently and fully urged,-it was because the Ottawa authorities took their stand and refused to go farther. But the people here, having determined that they would not abandon their cause, have maintained that stand to the present day, (cheers). Of the frequent journeyings to Ottawa, the result was the increase of the subsidy by something like $5,000 a year in 1873, so that thereafter our annual subsidy, rose to $72,000. In 1875, owing to withdrawals from capital account, our allowance shrunk to $65,000 a year, and the necessity for another appeal to Ottawa became at once apparent. An appeal was made by my predecessor, Hon. Mr. Davis, and thereupon there was a readjustment which gave as a subsidy of $90,000 per annum. These various increases of subsidy, I may add, were made on the constant and reiterated complaints of the people; and the amounts so doled out were, in fact, so many acknowledgments of the justice of these claims, (hear, hear). It is evident from a glance at the estimates brought down to the House to-day, that the end of these visitations to the Capital, is not yet. But now as then we are determined to stand by our cause as a just one,-one that we must press not only with all the Executive force the Government has, but with all the Legislative authority that this House can convey (loud cheers). And should we fail to obtain from the authorities at Ottawa that full measure of justice to which we are entitled,-in other words, should our right as British subjects be denied us,- we intend to ask that an appeal be next made direct from this House to the foot of the Throne, (cheers). The Federal authorities have already taken notice of the resolutions of the House in reference to the discriminating policy pursued towards this Province, to the injury of its best interests,-and they can be approached again by the Legislature (hear, hear). Going on to point out the different stages in the increase of subsidy, the hon. Gentleman said: In 1880, the subsidy went from $90,000 to $105,000; and again, in 1882, there was an increase to $227,153.04. I had occasion, as one of the delegates representing Manitoba, to urge her claims when the last two increases, were asked and given (hear, hear). In fact, occupying my present position in the Ministry, the responsibility of pressing these questions on the Federal authorities,- urging Provincial claims- devolved largely on me (hear, hear). And I will now take the opportunity of asking from the House a vindication of what I often asserted,-that the terms made by the Executive of the day, in accepting the $227,000, were only temporary,-and were not at all in the nature of a permanent arrangement (hear, hear, and cheers). I claim it on the authority of one of the Ministers at Ottawa, who, discussing the situation as a Minister, said that the terms made between the Province of Manitoba and the Federal authorities, were only temporary in their character (hear, hear). The old colony of Assiniboia,-the parent, as we may term it, of the Province of Manitoba,-prior to entering into the Dominion, enjoyed all the privileges that the other Provinces of Canada enjoyed before they entered Confederation,-minus elective institutions and responsible Government. The four Provinces relinquished some of their privileges on forming the confederacy. In the Colony of Assiniboia the authorities had power to levy customs and excise duties; and on reference to early history we find these imposts to have been very light, a four per cent, duty being found sufficient for all the requirements of Government, such as it was (hear, hear). You, yourself, Mr Speaker, know that the Government was not one indifferent to the wants of the people, for it can be said truthfully that justice was then administered with a strong and impartial hand as it has ever been administered since (cheers). The necessary improvements conducive to the interests of the settlers in that old colony were attended to as promptly and efficiently by its Government, - and perhaps even more efficiently than similar wants have ever been attended to by succeeding Governments (hear, hear). The early history of the country was in fact one of contentment. The requirements of the day were all fully met by the then rulers. What do we find now? Instead of a low tariff of four per cent, the people here are subjected to a high tariff, ranging all the way from 15 to 35 per cent,-and, in many instances, with the addition of a specific duty, reaching even to more than 100 per cent (hear, hear). Was that tremendous addition to the burdens of our people, imposed to meet their wants? No- decidedly not. It was imposed to meet the wants of that larger community called the Dominion of Canada,-and more especially the wants of the eastern end of that Dominion (hear, hear and cheers). We have but to consider the application of the proceeds of the revenue to see how unfair our treatment has been, and that there is ample cause for dissatisfaction throughout the Province with the small pittance allowed us for development (applause). Before entering Confederation the four provinces originally forming the union had full possession of all revenues as sovereign Provinces,- the right of levying customs and excise,-the rights of revenue accruing from the possession of lands timber, mines and minerals. All the revenues coming from these sources, were their's. As I have said, some of these sovereign powers were relinquished when the Confederacy was formed, and were vested in the Dominion. Up to that date the four provinces had incurred liabilities to the extent of $90,000,000 or more. This debt had been created in the development of the Provinces and any advantages resulting from the expenditure remained with them on becoming confederated. They had the full benefit of them,- the public works thus secured being as much the property of these provinces to-day as they were before Confederation hear). Notwithstanding this fact, when eastern state-men are approached as to the policy of discrimination against this Province-and when it is shown that we have to bear a full share of that huge debt without deriv-ing the least benefit therefrom, but being treated, on the contrary, with the grossest injustice by these very provinces, when that is pointed out, we are told-Oh! yes; Canada did assume these debts, but then these are assets. Well Mr. Speaker, we are willing to give them assets, too. if they will furnish us with the money to create them, or pay for them after they are created as was done in the case of the other provinces (loud laughter). Do they mean to say that there is any fairness or equity in the present arrangement under which we are heavily taxed for the Intercolonial Railway, the Welland Canal, the Lachine Canal, the Grand Trunk Railway, and all those other improvements and expenditures made and kept by the Eastern Provinces for their own special benefit. -used by them for their own development,-an arrangement by which while bearing a full share of the $90,000,000 of debt thus incurred, this Province is absolutely denied by these Eastern Provinces the power of inaugurating similar public works for the development of this country? Is the arrangement to be, that we must contribute to their benefit, while at the same time they will not allow us to contribute to our own development, but keep a firm hold on these resources,-our own resources,-which would enable us to promote that development? (hear, hear and cheers). Were we to be dealt with on the basis of a population of only 17,000 souls, while other Provinces were credited with having one million? Is that to be our position? Is this to be our status for years? If that is to be the position of Manitoba in confederation, then I am afraid that confederation will soon be a thing of the past, as far as Manitoba is concerned, (hear, hear). It is impossible that confederation can exist, unless the Provinces generally are placed in a more uniform position, (hear, hear and cheers). If it is a partnership at all,-and I always understood it was,-we have been always led to understand that our great national highway was being built as a bond of union between the Provinces,-if, I say, there is any partnership at all, it must be one in which the Provinces are all dealt with fairly, (cheers). In my innocence I believed that the object of the framers of Confederation was to preserve and extend the rights of all; to accord to all the same treatment; that there should be nothing like allowing one of the sisters of Confederation to eat in the dining room of the establishment, and fare sumptuously, while another sister was confined to the kitchen, (laughter), without being able to procure enough to eat even there, (renewed laughter). We are told in the despatch sent in answer to the resolutions of this House, in reference to our school lands, that,- "These lands form the subject of a special trust, for which they were set apart immediately after the acquisition of the country. The trust is one which His Excellency is advised, considering its object and character, this Government cannot in good faith towards the settler in Manitoba and the other Provinces which may be constituted out of the Northwest Territories, part with or be relieved from. This Government is therefore unable to advise a compliance with the request of your Ministers that these lands should be conveyed to Manitoba.”

Reciprocity in compliments being in order sometimes, I suppose, I may say that I can interpret that statement as nothing short of a want of confidence in the Ministry and Legislature of this Province being able to properly administer these school lands,- which of right belonged to us, which I reciprocate most heartily in so far as regards the Federal Ministry, (hear and laughter). Now in demanding these lands from the authorities at Ottawa, it was not on the ground of maladministration,-but because they have not been administered at all, (hear, hear). And the Government at Ottawa seems to be powerless to remedy the evil.

Instead of being administered wisely and judiciously, parties were allowed to settle on them without undertaking permanent improvements. Actuated only by the motive of getting all they could out of the land, such people used it without paying any rent, and never built on it, but allowed it to be overrun with weeds. Of course in the case of the *bona fide* settlers,- and there were such, they ought to get a title from the Government, on paying a fair price for the land; while in the other cases he had mentioned, it was an injustice to allow such persons to go upon the lands and impoverish them, (hear, hear). Taking everything into consideration, I will venture to say that we have as little confidence that the lands will be administered to the best advantage by the Federal authorities, as they seem to have in our administration of them, (laughter). And so far as that goes, although we do not want to have the last word and cry scissors! we feel that we are on an equal footing with them, (laughter). In answer to the demand made by this House for the control of the public lands of the Province, we are told from Ottawa, that, -

"The free homestead and pre-emption policy of the Dominion Government has been proclaimed throughout Europe and carried out with advantage to Manitoba, and this Government is of opinion that the faith of the Dominion, as well as the best interests of Manitoba, are pledged to its being permanently adhered to. Beyond this and how far it may be expedient to change the arrangement existing between Manitoba and the Dominion in respect of the lands of the Dominion situated within the Provinces is one of those questions involving financial considerations which, His Excellency is advised, could advantageously be enquired into in the manner contemplated by the Legislature of Manitoba in the first of the resolutions above referred to in regard to the financial relations of the Province with the Dominion."

I need scarcely say that, under any circumstances, we would not deem it a disadvantage to this Province to receive a large accession to its population. We are sufficiently patriotic, I hope, to receive cordially all good settlers coming here; and, while, as a member of the Dominion, we feel a pride in seeing her swell into larger proportions, we cannot at the same time avoid looking carefully into the effect that increase has on the internal economy of this Province (hear, hear). Nobody welcomes more heartily than I do, the settler coming here, but it is obvious that this increase of numbers entails increased responsibility,- increased outlay on our part (hear, hear). Additional road-making and repairing are incurred,- educational institutions must be furnished the new-comers, the maintenance of law and order has to be extended to them. Our wants are increased at an alarming rate. Are the ways and means increased also? This is a question which must force itself on the attention of every member. And I say here from my place in the House, as leader of the Government, that we do not receive that consideration from the Federal authorities to which we are entitled. Their immigration policy, while tending to build up the Dominion, does so in an especial manner at the expense of this Province. Each new settler within our limits becomes at once a revenue-producer for Canada, and a tax on the resources of Manitoba, which has not been enabled to carry out the objects of government as the other Provinces are enabled, by the assistance of the Federal authorities, to carry out (hear, hear).

Who gets the fees from the sale of our land? The Federal Government. Who pockets the customs and excise duties raised by the Province, duties largely increased, as I have said, by every additional settler? The Federal Government. We bear the burden. They draw the revenue,- an arrangement altogether too one-sided for us (hear, hear).

There should, surely, be some sort of proportion between our revenue and our responsibilities,- as our population increased, so should be our power of providing for the wants of that population (cheers). That is one of the objects for which the resolutions brought down to this House in the early part of the session, were submitted,- to elicit from the Legislature a full expression of opinion as to the policy that should be adopted in dealing with this Provence, (hear, hear). We ask that we should be dealt with as the other provinces were on entering confederation. We ask no extraordinary privileges. Were we to seek for more than the other provinces, the demand might be refused. But we are doing nothing of the kind. All we request is fair play (cheers). We are Canadians, and as such we require that we shall be placed on an equality with the other Provinces (cheers). Give us equality,- fair play,- and we will work out our own destiny (renewed cheers). It may not, perhaps, be out of place to remark here on some of the projects that engaged the attention of the four Provinces originally confederated, to show how they expended pretty largely their revenues and for which they obtained their credits. In Quebec the abolition of the Seigniorial Tenure was accomplished at a cost of $5,000,000. But this outlay being of no material interest to Ontario, she had to get from the General Government, as a quid pro quo $5,000,000 also, which constituted what is generally known as Municipal Loan fund. This represents $10,000,000 of the debt assumed by Canada, on which we are taxed. Besides this, the ambition of Ontario led her to undertake the construction of important public works. There was the Welland Canal, costing $50,000,000,- which canal cost the Dominion annually $16,000 beyond the receipts. These properties, defined by the term assets, should yield a revenue were assumed [sic] by the Dominion, and all put into a common pot, as it were. I might go on also to include the Grand Trunk Railway, which cost the Dominion in the neighborhood of, $25,000,000; and also the Intercolonial. We have to bear a full and large share of all this burden (hear, hear). Swelled from the sources I have enumerated, the debt of Canada to-day ranges be-tween $150,000,000 and $250,000,000. Taking it at the latter figure and it would represent $50 a head on the whole population of Canada (hear, hear). This is a natter that will strike every member of the House very seriously- even though we should be told that we have no business to discuss federal matters (hear). Again, what do we find latterly? By recent legislation, another $9,000,000 has been added to the public debt of Canada to subsidise roads in the Eastern Provinces (hear, hear). Innocently enough, we believed at one time that the C. P. R. being a national institution, would be the only railway to be subsidised by the nation; and it is often cast up to us that it was built directly in the interests of this Province; that we ought to be very thankful for the boon. Now a new theory prevails down East. When the idea was broached as to Manitoba's share of this $9,000,000, the public prints are the authority for the statement that the Minister of Railways said that Manitoba's share of this great railway grant consisted in the construction of the C. P. R. and in the aid granted to the Hudson's Bay Railway (laughter). Verily we are a highly favored community (hear, and laughter). I have before stated that a continuance of the present Dominion policy must compel a resort to direct taxation,- not a pleasant prospect by any means (hear, hear). Looking ahead, we feel it to be our duty, by every means in our power, to prevent the Province from drifting into such a state of circumstances. We have to enquire, what sources of revenue will remain to Manitoba when the public lands within her borders are all disposed of? When we look to the large sums realised from mines, minerals, timber and land sales yearly by the other Provinces, we cannot doubt that their rights were duly conserved when they cast in their lot with the Dominion. Manitoba unluckily found herself in far different circumstances,- a state of things for which the people of this Province cannot he blamed if the truth must be told.- Manitoba was forced into Confederation, figuratively speaking, at the point of the bayonet, and the people submitted to the conditions imposed on them, not knowing the extent of the responsibilities they were assuming, and confident that in any event they would be treated with full and impartial British justice in dealing with the Federal authorities. They knew that as the last resort there was the appeal to the foot of the Throne: and if that step has not yet been taken, it is because of the reluctance of the people to take that final step in order to assert their rights (hear, hear). They believed that, on becoming part of Confederation, the utmost justice would be conceded to them; and that belief was justified by the utterances of a prominent statesman of the day, the late Hon. Jos. Howe, who at that time was visiting the Province, and said:- “I have conversed freely with all classes of the community, from Governor Mactavish downwards, and to all held the same language “that the same constitution as

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the other Provinces possessed would ultimately be conferred upon the country.” They expect to enjoy the same constitution as the four Provinces already confederated. All we desire now is full completion of the promises then and since held out to us, (cheers). That is the position we are striving to attain. It is, I honestly believe, the aim and ambition of every man in Manitoba to have this Province placed- not in an inferior position but on a footing of equality with the other Provinces in Confederation, (cheers). It is often urged by persons in the East that Manitoba and the Northwest are a heavy burden on Canada,- that in fact we would soon ruin the Dominion, (hear, hear). Talk to an Eastern statesman to-day, and he immediately tells you.- You are a discontented lot,- a “spoon-fed” lot (loud laughter). Look, they tell us, at the C. P. R., to be built at a cost of $120,000,000- all for you! Those who argue in this fashion never stop to consider that they entered Confederation with $90,000,000 of a debt, whereas Manitoba had always had a full treasury and had no debt, (hear, hear). They forget, too, that they have taken away our means of revenue to a large extent. Had we the enjoyment of our local resources to-day, very few of us, I am sure, would be found to grumble, (hear, hear). One of the questions frequently brought before the Privy Council was “the control of our public lands;” and latterly, I observe, the Federal authorities have taken to shielding themselves by reference to the policy obtaining in the United States. This had been pleaded as a justification of Dominion policy towards us. They say:- “Following in this respect the example of the United States, where all public lands in new territories remain the property of the nation, the Crown lands in Manitoba are vested in Her Majesty, as represented by the Government of the Dominion. They have been freely granted in aid of the Canadian Pacific and other railways, of colonization companies, actual settlers, and towards other objects calculated to develop and augment its population.”

If the Federal authorities really desire to follow the example of the United States in this respect, by all means let them do so. Let them adopt in dealing with us as liberal a policy as Congress adopted towards at least some of the States, and we will be satisfied. Take as an example which we may urge on the Federal authorities, the adjoining State of Minnesota. Situated immediately to the south of us, occupying a large and fertile prairie territory, and lying contiguous to Lake Superior, Minnesota occupies a position corresponding to that occupied by Manitoba north of the International boundary. Her physical features and mode of development are similar, and she offers, too, similar facilities for railway construction. Taking these things into account, we may fairly conclude that the policy under which her development was effected, would, if tried here, produce like results. We find Congress granting that State 11,699,200 acres to aid in railway construction. In the United States, the State Governments possess chartering powers similar to those supposed to be conferred on Canadian Provinces. Minnesota, exercising this privilege, has chartered railways and granted them aid (under a regular system of State railway aid within her limits) to the extent of the 11,699,200 acres. This grant has been given towards the construction of 1,828 miles railways. In fact, the State invested the congressional grant in companies organised under State charters. These companies are superintended by a State railway commissioner, and the State exacts from them three per cent of their gross earnings, yielding a revenue of $614,000 in 1882 and $622,000 in 1883, which is increasing every year (hear, hear). So that the Congressional land grant has been so judiciously applied as to be a yearly-increasing source of revenue to the State; until, within a few years, it may be that all the State institutions will be supported by the revenue derived from the railway companies, based on the grant originally obtained from the Federal authorities (hear, hear). I say that if the Dominion Government will only carry out in Manitoba the application of the same principle such as I have illustrated,- even if we are not placed on the same footing as our sisters in Confederation, we will not be disposed to grumble very loudly (hear, hear). If they will only adopt towards us a liberal, generous policy like that adopted by the American Federal authorities towards the State adjoining our borders, we would not only be the gainers as a Province, but the whole Dominion would eventually be the gainer also. We are a large profit to the Dominion now, but, less hampered, and with full opportunity for development, our worth to the Dominion would be greatly enhanced (cheers). Or, if they will only leave off meddling with the charters granted by this House for the promotion of local railways, we might reasonably expect in a few years to be deriving a large revenue from these sources (cheers). The railways might be made to contribute towards the expense of Government as had been done in the case of the railways south of the line (hear, hear). In addition to the liberal gift just mentioned, Congress has granted 5,000,000 acres of swamp lands-not needing a large expenditure for their reclamation. This grant is given towards the support of State institutions such as in asylums, with an occasional grant in aid of railways. In addition they have from Congress a grant of 6,400 acres in aid of public buildings. They have also one-eighteenth of the state lands for purposes of education; for University purposes they get 92,160 acres; towards the maintenance of an Agricultural College 150,000 acres, and 46,000 acres of salt lands are handed over to the State; and for internal improvements other than railways, they have 500,000 acres of the choicest lands that can be selected by the Governor of the State,- worth, probably, $8 or $10 an acre. So that we find Congress allowing the State of Minnesota over 17,000,000 acres, exclusive of the grants in aid of the Northern Pacific Railway and the educational grant (hear, hear). If a similar policy were pursued towards us by the Federal authorities, how would the case stand? We would be in possession of public lands to the extent of over 36,000,000 acres. Certainly, if Minnesota, with an area of 53,000,000 acres, has been granted over 23,000,000 of them for public improvements, Manitoba, with an area nearly double,- or 96,000,000 acres-might, in like ratio, expect to obtain from the Federal authorities for similar purposes, at least 36,000,000 acres (hear, hear),- and this, too, exclusive of her grant for schools or the C. P. R. land subsidy. Here then is the comparison fairly worked out; and if as they profess, the Federal authorities are willing to give us bounties for local objects, similar to those given by Congress, here is an illustration, drawn from parallel cases to which they themselves have specially called our attention (hear, hear). If as I said, they will not accord us the status given the other Provinces, let them treat us as Congress treats the neighboring State of Minnesota, (hear, hear and cheers). If they want to go back on that arrangement, although held up to us as an example fit for imitation, by themselves, then let them give us the status which is ours by right, (hear, hear). At this stage, perhaps it would be as well that we should look back and try and acquaint ourselves with some of the causes that led to the withholding from the people of the Province the control of the public lands. On a reference back to the commencenent of Provincial history the following demands will be found embodied in the Bill of Rights presented to the Federal authorities by delegates from the old Red River settlement, or colony of Assiniboia,- in two of the clauses,- one and eleven;-

Clause I.- “That the Territories heretofore known as Rupert's Land and the Northwest shall not enter into the Confederation of the Dominion of Canada except as a Province, to be styled and known as the Province of Assiniboia, and with all the rights and privileges common to the different Provinces of the Dominion.”

Clause XI.- “That the Local Legislature of the Province of Assiniboia shall have full control over all the public lands of the Province, and the right to annul all acts or arrangements made, or entered into with reference to the public lands of Rupert's Land, and the Northwest now called the Province of Assiniboia.” ,

It is apparent from this manifest of that [sic] the people then, and their representatives, had a very fair conception of at least one thing:- that on coming into Confederation they were entitled to privileges such as the other Provinces of Canada enjoyed, (hear, hear). The 11th clause of the Bill of Rights is an extraordinary demand and shows that it was intended that the Local Legislature should have full control over all the lands not only of the Province but also the right to annul arrangement that may have been made or entered into with reference to the public lands of Rupert's Land. The two clauses I have cited were, I find, specially referred to by Sir Clinton Murdoch, then acting as mediator between the Federal authorities and the people of Red River; and he held and rightly too I think, that as the latter clause particularly covered a very wide stretch of territory, there would at that stage be some danger in giving up the control of the public lands to the Province as the land included in the Bill of Rights would extend into the Territories; and having control of these, the Provincial authorities might thereby be enabled to hinder if not prevent immigration into the country and stop the building of railroads. Whatever reason could be advanced for holding those views then, could not, certainly, be brought forward now. The C. P.R. has been already built beyond the limits of the-Province, and immigration to a large extent has flowed into and beyond our bounds. Thus those old reasons,- whatever their value,- for withholding the public lands of the Province, cannot obtain now: and in insisting on our right to get possession of these lands, we can, amongst other things, point to the fact that these old objections have faded out of sight (hear, hear). In discussing our position as a Province, I have endeavored to show that we never acquiesced in the partial measures of relief accorded to us, but from the very outset we indicated plainly that our proposition was at once unfortunate and eminently unsatisfactory- a state of affairs resulting from our not having got a fair start in the provincial race (hear, hear). The earliest opportunity offered the people of this Provence was taken advantage of by them to represent the true state of affairs and endeavored to set themselves right. In the first session of the Legislature of Manitoba there was a motion brought forward by a minority of the House, taking exception to the speech then delivered, because it contained no assurance that a promise of the restoration of the public lands was held out to the people. So that, from the very inception of representative institutions here, down to the present time, it is clear that this question was never lost sight of, (hear, hear). There is no missing link in that chain, (hear). And for my part I believe that the justice of our cause is such that we will yet triumph, (cheers),- that we will be invested with the full control of the lands not disposed of,- and also that there will be full recognition of our right to that which has been already parted with, (cheers). That, I believe to be the claim the Province makes; she will satisfied with no less; and until the reasonable demands in this respect have been complied with, the present discontent in the Province will go on increasing, (hear hear). As British subjects we know and cherish our rights; and we believe in the end, right must prevail, (cheers). We are not different from other British subjects in believing that in the end our rights cannot be withheld from us. On the contrary, did we tamely submit to wrong- did we abandon our rights,-we would be less than British subjects. (hear, hear, and cheers). Perhaps, in the proportion to our population, we have in Manitoba as many, if not more men of talent, business enterprise, and solid work than they have in any other Province of the Dominion, (hear, hear) ; and these are not the men to tamely suffer wrong. (hear, hear). Did we do so, we would, in all probability, injure others as well as ourselves. The action taken towards Manitoba, it must be remembered, may be duplicated in the case of the remaining Provinces to be carved out of the Great North-west; the course we take will be to some extent a precedent for them, (hear, hear). All the more need then for a firm stand on Provincial Rights. (cheers). All the more need that we should be careful so to conserve and maintain our powers and privileges as a Province, that we will not endanger in any way, by a bad precedent or otherwise, the future of the Provinces to be created there (hear hear). We have, as it were, not only to maintain firmly our own position for ourselves, but also one which is very likely to influence the future of other Provinces yet to be called into existence in this land, (cheers). We have, so to speak, to stand in the front of the battle, and to fight not only for ourselves, but for the other Provinces yet to be created, (cheers).

When the House adjourned yesterday (continued the Hon. gentleman in resuming his speech on the following day), I had just concluded following out of the analogy cited by the Federal authorities as one applicable to Manitoba,- viz: the policy of the United States Government towards newly-admitted territories. I noticed since, on looking over the dispatch of the 2nd April, in reply to the resolutions of this House, that another analogy is quoted, as they take as a justification of their policy towards Manitoba. In this instance they cite for our benefit the case of Prince Edward Island. According to their own figures it comprises an area of 1,365,720 acres,- about equal to a respectable sized county in the Province of Manitoba (hear, hear) Yet in dealing with Prince Edward Island, in consideration of her misfortune in having no lands of her own, she was allowed the magnificent sum of $800,000 (hear, hear). If corresponding treatment were meted out to Manitoba, let us see how the case would stand. For the sake of being liberal, we may compute the area of Prince Edward Island as even larger than they have made it. Compare it with the area of this Province, and it will be found that instead of receiving an annual subsidy of $45,000 in lieu of her lands or a capital of $900,000, Manitoba should,-on the showing of the Ottawa authorities themselves,-have had a credit of something bet-ween $53,000,000 and $55,000,000, or an annual interest resulting therefrom of $2,500,000, (hear, hear). I do not pretend to set up a claim on the part of the Province to this amount (laughter), but I quote it to show the false basis on which the financial arrangements with this Province have been calculated at Ottawa (hear, hear). I am merely carrying out or extending an analogy expressly cited for our benefit by the Federal authorities; and demonstrating that if they are satisfied with such an arrangement, we should be, provided the sum is carried out or extended to its legitimate issue (hear, hear). The Dominion Government, in its official statements, calls attention to the fertility of our lands,-being, indeed, the most valuable on the continent, and we, most assuredly, are not disposed to under-rate them. With a less fertile soil, and a paltry area of 1,365,120 acres, Prince Edward Island is granted $800,000 in lieu of lands, What, then, ought to be the proportionate recompense given to a Province such as ours, with an exceptionally fertile soil and an area of something like 96,000,000 acres? Our lands,-admitted to be some of the best on the continent,-should have formed a valuable patrimony for the Province, for the advancement of all those public purposes, in aid of which the other Provinces had their lands or an equivalent therefor (hear, hear). If a quid pro quo was given to this Province for the lands to which she is entitled,- which are within her borders, I have indicated on the basis favored by the Federal authorities themselves, what it should be (hear, hear). They have instituted comparison. I say that if we are to have any comparison at all, it ought to be one in its entirety. Let it be a real one. We can abide by any fair comparison (hear, hear). We have urged certain claims. It is absolutely essential that these claims should be settled once for all. When I come to speak of the Estimates, I will show how essential these claims are; and hon. members will be able to judge for themselves when they observe that the Provincial revenue is absolutely unable to meet,-and, indeed, is a long way from meeting the demands made on it for the barest necessities of Government (hear, hear).

I referred yesterday to the oft-repeated expressions of eastern statesmen in dealing with the interests of this Province,-to the effect that we were a burden on the Dominion. I do not need to go over much ground to expose the absurdity of these opinions. I have already noticed that before Manitoba became confederated, the other provinces forming the Dominion had incurred heavy liabilities in the prosecution of local improvements,- similar to those which it is incumbent on this Legislature and Government to prosecute in the interests of this Province. In making like improvements, and in other ways, the Provinces I have alluded to, ran up a joint debt of $90,000,000. And now, as I have noted, their position is this: They are relieved of that debt, and they have those improvements the making of which helped to create the debt, (hear, hear). I desire to call special attention in this connection to the subsequent arrangements with Prince Edward Island, in order to disabuse the minds of member of this Legislature of the absurd idea, broached some time ago,- and contradicted by me at the time, that the $45,000 per annum had been accepted as compensation for our public lands. I maintained then, as I do now, that the action of the Government of this Province in accepting that $45,000 could not be interpreted as a forfeiture of the rights of this Province in its public lands. We then claimed, as we do now, that we must be invested with the full control and management of our public lands, and be placed on the same status in that respect as the other Provinces (cheers). Today the intention of the Government is to submit to the House a proposition by which, as a Legislature, we will be enabled to submit to the Federal authorities, our full claims in this respect; and it will remain with this House then to accept or reject whatever terms are offered (cheers). In my reference yesterday to the old Colony of Assiniboia, I forgot to mention that in those early days they were in possession of a homestead law,-a circumstance which will still further illustrate and justify my position that that colony exercised all the rights of the old Provinces before Confederation. This is the enact-ment,-simply phrased, as the enactments of those days generally were.

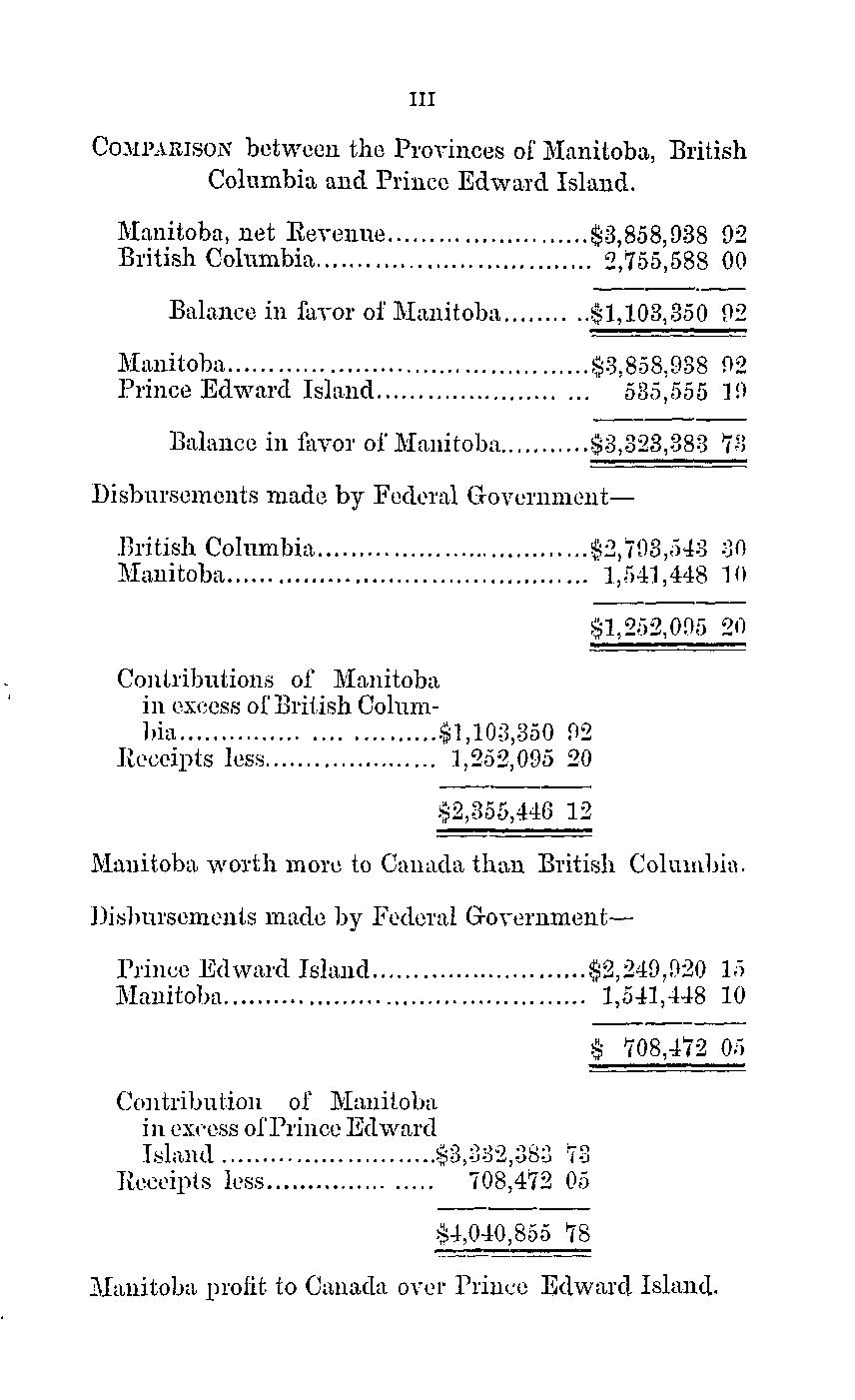
“On motion of the Bishop of St. Boniface, seconded by Solomon Hamelin, and carried:--That in difficulties arising between persons who take land outside that part of the Colony already surveyed, or even that exceeding the limits of the Colony, the Magistrates be authorized to take for the principle that ten chains shall be the limit of the pre-emption right arising from occupation."

This enactment (continued the Hon. gentleman) was never set aside by higher authority. Sanctioned by custom, it remained in full force (cheers). The very production, I say, of such evidence of the exercise of authority, with the evidence already cited, is sufficient to justify us in the premises that that old colony enjoyed rights similar to those exercised by the other provinces prior to Confederation.

And I go further, and state that it a violation of the terms of Confederation that those gentlemen occupying official positions here then were not consulted before the union with the Dominion (hear, hear). Further, I may state that the occupation of the class of claims referred to in this Homestead Law, has been recognized by the Manitoba Act, and confirmed by giving grants to those who satisfactorily established undisturbed occupancy of land within the Provincial limits on the 15th July, 1870 under that very provision (hear, hear). As to this puzzle to Eastern people, the cost of Manitoba to the Dominion, let me bring forward a few facts. Let us take the cost of Manitoba to the Dominion as compared with those Provinces that entered subsequently to 1870,-as the cost in the case of the other Provinces has been very fully discussed of late. In British Columbia, for instance, their receipts during the last ten years amounted to $2,793,543.30. Manitoba's income from similar sources during the same period was $1,541,448.10- showing that we received in that time $1,252,095.20 less than our favored

sister Province on the Pacific. To estimate this state of things correctly, we must consider the status of British Columbia in the Dominion. She had control of all her public lands- owned valuable mines- and extensive timber limits. And she received the revenue I have specified to govern a white population which is only about a quarter of the population of this Province. For her necessities in this direction, she received nearly double as much as we did in the ten years instanced (hear, hear). As evidencing still further the inequality of the terms on which Manitoba was taken into Confederation I will cite the state of affairs financially in Prince Edward Island during the ten years mentioned. She received in that time for her public expenditures $2,249,920.15, as against Manitoba's $1,541,448.10. Thus the little island at the Atlantic end of Confederation heads us off in financial resources, by $708,472.05 (hear, hear). Pushing the enquiry still further, it will be seen that while this Province received less than the Provinces named, she could not obtain the ways and means to carry on government, as these two Provinces were enabled by the Federal authorities to do,- more was exacted of us,-heavier burdens were imposed on us than on either of the two favorite Provinces cited (hear, hear). While we received less than they did, we have at the same time been contributing to the Dominion Treasury in a far greater ratio than they did (hear, hear). In making these comparisons, I may explain that I have taken the trouble to classify the various expenditures, so that none of an exceptional character should be taken into account, and that only such contributions as we give yearly should be included. I regret very much that for the purposes of this comparison we are unable to show the receipts from the sales of public lands in Manitoba; but, taking the receipts in customs and excise alone for the past ten years and comparing them with similar contributions from British Columbia and Prince Edward Island,- the two Provinces entering Confederation after us,- we will see what becomes of the statement that we have been a burden on the Dominion. During the decade of British Columbia's net revenue to the Dominion (arising from customs and excise) was $2,755,588. In the same period Manitoba's net contributions to the Dominion from like sources, reached $3,858,938.92,- showing her to rank fifth among the members of Confederation as a revenue contributor to the Federal Treasury (cheers). From this it is apparent that Manitoba proved more profitable to the Dominion than British Columbia by $l,003,350.92. This amount would, as I have said, be largely swelled, if we were able to take into account the Dominion revenue derived from the land within our limits. As it is, however, the comparison clearly establishes that Manitoba is the largest contributor to the Dominion Treasury, of the above provinces cited while in receipt of the smallest subsidy. She cost the Dominion less in the administration of justice and collection of revenue than either of the Provinces mentioned. In the ten years she received $708,472.05 less than Prince Edward Island, while contributing $3,332,383.73 more; and while receiving $1,252,095.20 less than British Columbia, Manitoba contributed $1,103,350.92 more than the Pacific Province (hear, hear) Once more, we make a deduction from these figures for presentation to the Federal authorities. It is this: Prince Edward Island having been subsidized during the period named to the extent of $2,249,920 having yielded a profit of $535,533 while Manitoba’s profit to Canada during a corresponding period was $3,332,383.78, reckoning Manitoba’s profit to Canada as compared with Prince Edward Island receipts she should have had as subsidy an amount of $14,000,000 (hear, hear). This, it is to be noted, is the result to which the comparison instituted by the Federal authorities leads (hear, hear). In reality our subsidy for the period mentioned reached $1,541,448.10. Is there equality or justice in a state of affairs such as this? (hear, hear). Manitoba has been, in fact, the most profitable investment the Dominion ever made in her whole public existence (cheers). In point of fact, the revenues accruing in Manitoba and the North West have been the principal sources by which of late the credit of the Dominion has been placed on a firm basis in the money markets of the world, enabling the Federal authorities to pay interest on the large and heavy debt thrown on the Dominion by the Eastern Provinces on entering Confederation (cheers). Canada’s western possessions are shown conclusively to have largely contributed to her sources of revenues; while the maintenance of her institutions in the East have been sources of loss rather than gain to the Dominion. We must not forget, too, that on going into the Confederation partnership in 1870, our principal source of revenue was taken from us in the interest of the Dominion. We came into the compact, having possession of an asset that was better than any of the “assets” so often quoted as belonging to the other Provinces. “We entered the Union free from debt.” The others came in loaded with “assets,”- in reality, encumbrances,- amounting to $90,000,000. As indicating still further the one-sidedness and inequality of this curious partnership, I have noticed how Manitoba, the worst treated member of Confederation, became one of the largest contributors to the purse of Canada. The acquisition of Manitoba and the North-West gave the Dominion fruitful sources of revenue; while, as I have also noticed, the confederating of the sister Provinces in the East not only placed a huge load of debt on the Dominion, but proved in every way a far less profitable operation than the acquisition of this portion of Canada (cheers). Is it any wonder, then, that under these circumstances the people of the West should look with anxiety and doubt into the future,- the short existence we have had in the Dominion partnership being sufficient to illustrate to us the necessity of a radical readjustment of our position (hear, hear). I will now briefly refer to the estimates which His Honor has transmitted to this House, but not with the intention of entering into any detailed explanation as to the application of the sums required. I will merely say that we ask the sanction of the Legislature to an expenditure of $144,096.61 more than we show any reasonable hope of being able to meet from any revenue at our disposal (hear hear). The other Hon. gentlemen exercising supervision departments will be able to give details of the Estimates. In bringing them down, I may also observe that they are merely for the ordinary current expenses of the Province; and, while endeavoring to be as economical as possible in the administration of the public funds, it will be admitted that it would be bad policy on our part so to curtail that expenditure as to prevent our being able to meet all necessary expenses. The Province is in course of rapid development, and any undue economy at this juncture would therefore be false economy, as tending to retard that development (hear, hear). In regard to the position of affairs financially, the Government have had occasion before this to state it as their opinion that the present position of affairs was inevitable. The whole question as to the financial standing and prospects of the Province is one that has been very fully discussed before on the floor of this House, at the hustings, and everywhere throughout the country (hear, hear). Public opinion has been gradually solidifying in relation to this matter, until it has become so strong and our necessities as a Province so pressing, that the Government believe the time to be most opportune to urge again and finally on the Federal authorities the claims of this Province,- urging them, too, in such a manner as will, we doubt not, be attended with success (loud cheers). I will now close my remarks by moving that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider the message of His Honor; together with the Estimates and statements accompanying the same.

Addenda:



**g) Selected letters: from the correspondence in John Norquay Premier’s Papers**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A - 191 | June 16, 1875 | Assessment Notice | Kennedy & McVicar Assessors | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Lots at Point Douglas. |

#1172, “Hon John Norquay, Prov Secty” [Occupation] Property described as “Ptns 30 & 31, Main St, Point Douglas Common” Value of Lot – $1200 total value $1200.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A - 193 | June 13, 1876 | Collection Notice | Bain & Blanchard | City (Winnipeg) | TruthwaiteThos. Jr., St. Andrews | Claim for $62.25. |

“Thos Truthwaite Jr. St Andrews – a claim against you amounting to $62.25 has been placed in our hands for collection by Thos Taylor. A prompt settlement is requested”

**Norquay to Charles Adams Red Deer Prince Albert NWT 9 February 1885, NPP, Letterbook D, D196**

My dear Charlie I received yours of the 21st [Cooke: “should be 31st”] on my arrival home from Ottawa and noted its contents. I regret very much that your crop was so disappointing. I shall try to make arrangements to give you the loan you request but may not be able to do so, as I am very heavily embarrassed myself, having been foolish enough to place my name on the back of other peoples paper for which I have to pay dearly. I am glad to hear that you are all well and hope you will pull through the winter all right. I am your affectionate brother-in-law….”

**JN to George Adams, High Bluff 6 April 1885 [E344**] “Dear Geordie: I am in receipt of yours of the 4th inst. I am sorry to say that I have heard no word from Prince Albert since the trouble commenced. If I get any word I shall write and let you know the news. Believe me, yours truly J Norquay”

**JN to Horace Adams, Red Deer Hill 8 May 1885 [D246]** “My dear Horace I received your letter dated the 28th ult giving me an account of the awkward situation in which you are placed. I hope that you may be able to get out of this trouble without any harm. Tom and Alick are off with the troops and you can imagine my anxiety for their safety. I hope this unfortunate rebellion will soon come to an end. Your affectionate Uncle, J Norquay”

**JN to JAMacdonald 1 Sept 1886 [LB5-1]** “Have just learnt that Adams of Prince Albert to be replaced & that Indians and people well satisfied with him is at [it?] dismissal?” [Cooke adds: “Norquay’s writing, badly faded”] [probably telegram draft]

**JN to Chas Adams Prince Albert, 4 Sept 1886 [LB5-11-14]** “My dear Charlie I wired Sir John on receipt of your telegram & this morning got the enclosed telegram from him. ‘Adams not fit for post will be employed elsewhere.’ I cannot understand how you could not fill the bill probably as usual your post is wanted for some friend however if you get as good I would not say a word if I were in your place especially if there is less work and as much pay as in the one you mention and not so subject to so many jealousies & designs as your present post is. Have you had any trouble with any of the agents. Possible there may be a plot on the part of some to get you removed while …[words faded]. We are all well at home. Yours sincerely, J. Norquay”

**Chapter 2**

**Interview with Elizabeth Setter Norquay ca. 1921 on her childhood in the Red River settlement**

Elizabeth, known to familiars as Betsy, grew up in St. Andrews parish and, after her parents moved in the early 1850s, in the Portage la Prairie district. Her recollections may have been gathered by a member of the Women’s Canadian Club or by William Healy, the editor of the book in which they appeared, in the early 1920s. She was then living with her daughter and son in law, Caroline Ellen and John Edgar McAllister, in Twin Oaks, their home on River Road, St. Andrews, a stone house that had been built for William Kennedy in the 1860s and has since become “Kennedy House,” a provincial historic site.

From: *Women of Red River: being a book written from the recollections of women surviving from the Red River era,* William J. Healy, ed. (Winnipeg: Russell, Lang, 1923) pp 145-156

**St. Andrew’s on the Red**

“In a stone house which still stands on a knoll on the west bank of the Red river within a few hundred yards of St. Andrew’s church lives Mrs. Norquay, the widow of the Hon. John Norquay who was Premier of Manitoba from 1878 until 1888, and died in 1889; the Province has had no other Premier who was born in the West. The house stands between the river and the river road, which dips from that knoll as it comes westward along the low river bank; a road on which the church stands. Mrs. Norquay, who was born in 1842 at Park’s Creek, a short distance up the river, in the neighbourhood which is known now as Parkdale, where the electric railway between Winnipeg and Selkirk crosses the creek by the side of which John Tait built his water mill some three score years ago, lives with her daughter, Mrs. John McAllister. The stone house was built by Captain William Kennedy, a man whose name deserves a high place in the history of the West.

In an old chair which was among her wedding gifts, Mrs. Norquay sat in a room whose windows give wide views up and down the river, on an afternoon last summer, and told some of the memories of her long life. As a child she went to school at Park’s Creek, where John Garrioch was the teacher. The children would take with them to school a bannock each to eat at the noon hour, and after they had eaten their bannocks they would play “cross-tag,” “wolf,” “button” and other games. In the winter as many of them as could find room on an old buffalo robe, which they would use as a toboggan, would slide down the river bank. “The first thing every morning at school was the reading of a chapter of the Bible,” said the old lady. “After recess there would be another chapter. And school closed in the afternoon with prayer. The desks were sloping boards along the wall. The little children who were beginners had cards with the alphabet and little words on them. In the winter most of the girls used to come wearing coats made with two-point “H.B.” blankets, with a leather cord to hold them together. And we wore woollen caps and moccasins, of course, outside of duffels made of white or blue blanket-cloth and coming up to the knees and tied there to keep the snow out. At the school we had slates and slate-pencils. A boy or girl who had no pencil used a lump of clay instead, and if there were little pieces of stone in it they scratched the slate and you could rub the writing off, but not the scratches. When we came home from school at four in the afternoon there was always work for us to do, such work as teasing a great bunch of wool for the women to card next day. Our clothes were made out of homespun. Everybody had sheep.

“On the floor of the house where I was born,” Mrs. Norquay went on, “there were Indian mats, as we used to call them. The Indians wove them with rushes, and stained them with vegetable dyes which they made themselves. We made all our own furniture. In my father’s old house when we came in at the front door we were in the dining-room, and the kitchen was back of it. The other rooms in the house were bedrooms. The fireplace was made with mud and so was the chimney. Whole logs of white poplar used to burn in the fireplace. The girls had chores to do every evening and every morning, too, before school. We all used to get up very early, and the men would go out to the barns to thresh with a flail, or to do other work, and the girls would help in milking the cows and feeding them, and in feeding the calves and pigs. Then, when everybody came for breakfast, the Bible was read and we had prayers before we sat down to eat.”

Mrs. Norquay’s father, George Setter, was in the Company’s service. Her mother died when she was two years old. “Our family came from Orkneys and were here long before the first of the Selkirk settlers came,” she said. “I used to hear my father telling stories about the Orkneys which he had from his father, and many and many a time I used to wonder what it was like in the old country. Once, when I was a young woman, before I was married, my mother’s sister was going to the old country and she wanted to take me with her. I wanted to go with her. There have been very few things I have longed for more than I longed to go on that voyage with my aunt across the Atlantic. But my father would not let me go.”

John Norquay and Elizabeth Setter were married at Portage la Prairie in 1862. “Mr. Norquay was twenty-one when we were married,” Mrs. Norquay, said “and I was twenty. When I met him first he was teaching school and I was keeping house for my brother.” It was custom to have marriages on Wednesdays before noon, and then there would be three days’ dancing, and on Sunday the newly-wedded couple would go to church together. Mrs. Norquay wears constantly a brooch which contains a miniature of her husband. The old lady speaks always gently and almost shyly; but there is pride in her soft voice when she speaks of him. Telling of her early married life, she said: “We worked hard and were happy. “We did not have much but our wants were simple. I had never believed that I could live on fish, as we had to do when the grasshoppers came and ate everything green. We had a farm at High Bluff then. Before our supply of flour was all used, we moved up to lake Manitoba, so that we could get fish. We mixed our flour with fish and made what we used to call fish rolls. There was a salt spring there and the French people used to make salt and sell a lot of it. Salt was a scarce thing in the settlement. We preserved our meat by drying, not by salting. Sugar was scarce, too, and we had no cakes or pies in those days, and we had to pre-serve our berries by drying. We used to dry raspberries, saskatoons and blueberries. They would dry in a cake, and when we wanted some for the table we would break a piece off the cake and put sugar with it. The women used to pound choke cherries and put them with the pemmican, just as we use currant jelly with mutton.”

Among the winter nights’ occupations for the girls, which Mrs. Norquay mentioned, was “knocking barley.” The barley was put in the hollowed bowl-like block of wood which was used for this purpose, and the girls would take turns, some in pounding it with a long-headed wooden mallet, while others kept turning the barley with a stick or a long-handled spoon. When the grain was all separated from the hulls it was winnowed, and was then ready for use in making barley broth. Mrs. Norquay told of the hay-cutting which began on a day fixed by the proclamation towards the end of July. The two miles of hinterland behind each river lot was up to a certain date known as the “hay privilege” of the owner of the lot, but in actual practice the whole prairie back of the Selkirk settlers’ lots was common ground for hay-cutting. Before the day fixed for the beginning of hay-cutting each year, the best hay meadows were spied out, and each man had planned where he was to cut hay. In dry years when there was a scarcity of hay it was usual for the men to go out and be in readiness to start hay-cutting on the stroke of midnight. A man pre-empted his hay area by making a circle around it with a scythe. “It had happened more than once,” said Mrs. Norquay, “that the marking out of the hay circles was begun in the middle of the night in a thunder storm.” Each man’s ownership of the area he had marked out was always respected. The survivors from the old Red River time have many stories about the hay-cutting. The men went out and camped on the prairie in tents, riding home every Saturday evening for the Sunday. In speaking of the constant spirit of good-will and mutual helpfulness among the people of Red River, Mrs. Norquay said that when a prairie fire destroyed the hay-stacks of a family the neighbors always supplied the deficiency. When one of the MacBeths lost his hay-stack by a prairie fire, his neighbors put a hundred cart-loads into his farm yard the next day.

St. Andrew’s, like all the other churches in which the people of Red River met for worship, was built by the devoted labor of the people themselves. When lines for the foundation of the church were marked out and work was to be begun the following day, several men arose before dawn in order to be the first to turn a sod. As the earliest of them arrived on the ground they found that Archdeacon Cochrane was there before them and had already done more than an hour’s work with his spade. In building the walls the heavy stones were carried up by men who used harness around their shoulders for the work. Before Archdeacon Cochrane died he asked that his body be buried within the sound of St. Andrew’s rapids and where the feet of the worshippers in St. Andrew’s church would pass near his grave; and he had his wish. Speaking of St. Andrew’s Mrs. Norquay had many recollections of the Archdeacon. “He was a man of extraordinary energy,” she said, “and concerned himself with everything in the life of the settlement. If he were riding along the road and saw a farmer ploughing and not making a straight furrow, the Archdeacon would get off his horse and take hold of the plough handles and help him straighten out the crooked furrow. He often had odd ways of expressing himself, both in the pulpit and out of it. I remember once when he was marrying a couple, he said to them after the ceremony, ‘Now, William, you must be kind to Sarah. See that she always has a pail of water on hand. Get in wood for her. Do not leave her to fetch it herself. And do not let the cupboard get empty. And you, Sarah, must be good to William and take care of him. Take care of William’s clothes. Never let him come to church without his trousers being neatly patched.’ One day the Archdeacon was riding along the river road. He was passing an Indian tepee when he heard sounds coming from it which told him that the Indian was beating his wife. The Archdeacon got off his horse, went to the side of the road and cut a willow stick, and gave the Indian a beating with it, and told him that he would punish him more severely if he heard of his beating his wife again.”

Among the many interesting relics of the old Red River time which Mr. McAllister has in his house is a quern, the ancient form of mill for grinding wheat; it consists of two round stones. The upper stone is ground round by hand upon the fixed nether stone. Jesus had it in mind when he had said: “Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken and the other left.” The women of Kildonan ground thus at the mill, in the time before there were windmills in the settlement; and the quern was often in use even after there were windmills. Mrs. Norquay said: “We used to take wheat to one of the mills to be ground. Some-times for lack of wind, the windmills could not grind and John Tait’s water mill at Parkdale, on the creek between St. Andrew’s and St. Paul, was in such times kept busy, but for many years the windmills were the only mills. Sometimes there would be a breeze strong enough to give them power to grind, but not to bolt. The north and northwest winds were the best for the mills. The south and east winds were not so strong and steady. When we had to do the bolting ourselves we used to do it with a sieve of brass wire which we would hang from a beam and spread a white cloth under it on a table, then by pouring in the ground but un-bolted grist we had brought from the mill and shaking the sieve we would get flour.”

Mrs. Norquay proposed to her visitors that as the afternoon was so fine they should go outdoors. There are rustic seats on the grounds between the stone house and the high river bank. Walking towards them, the old lady went into a clump of trees, and stooping, pulled from the ground a plant with a tuberous root. “This is the wild potato, which the Indians call aski-pawah,” she said, and went on to tell about the wild turnip of the prairie, which the Selkirk settlers in the times of scarcity of food in the early years used to search for and eat. The red willow, she said, furnished not only a substitute for tobacco in its inner bark, which when dried and rubbed, was known as kini-kinik, but the same inner bark was used in making a poultice for any swelling; and the inner bark of the poplar, which has a bitter-sweet taste just like grapefruit which was eaten as a tonic in the spring. “There was a root which we used to call the buffalo root,” Mrs. Norquay added. “It did not grow near the river, but out on the plain. I remember my uncle giving me a piece of it to chew, when I was a child. It was not unlike licorice. And I can remember hearing the old people, when I was in my childhood, speaking of the Indian remedy for scurvy, which was a drink made from the sap of the white spruce.”

Asked about the different ways of cooking pemmican Mrs. Norquay said that the voyageurs often ate the pemmican without cooking it. “A handful of pemmican was a meal,” she added. “There were two ways in which pemmican was cooked. One, which was known as rubaboo, was made by boiling the pemmican with potatoes, and with onions and any other vegetables. The name of the other dish, rowshow, was probably a corruption of réchauffé. It was made by shredding the pemmican and mixing flour and water with it and frying the mixture in a pan. This was the voyageur’s favorite way of cooking it. Of course, there were several grades of pemmican. It was made on the plains by the women who accompanied the buffalo hunters. They pounded the buffalo meat and then poured melted buffalo fat over it and sewed it up in buffalo hide. Some pemmican was made carelessly. Pemmican made carefully from the best parts of the buffalo, with the right mixture of sugar and berries to correct the greasiness, was very good. The tongues and bosses were the most delicate buffalo meat.”

In the parish of St. Andrew’s is some of the most beautiful of Red River scenery. St. Andrew’s church stands on as fine a site as there is along the whole course of the river. The church is still heated by the old Carron stoves; and on some of the kneeling benches are the old coverings of buffalo skin, with patches of the fur still left. Within the church on the east wall is a bronze tablet in memory of Captain William Kennedy who was an uncle of Mrs. John Norquay. It was placed there by the Women’s Canadian Club of Winnipeg, and was unveiled by Sir Ernest Shackleton in 1910….”

**3 The Norquay Children’s Letters [from Norquay Premier’s Papers]**

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| A - 167 | 1879 | Receipt | Ladies' School St. John's College | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | To amount of account rendered $54.47. Re: Bella Norquay. |

Re Bella Norquay: Board 70; English 10; Music 12.50; Seat in Cathedral .50; French 5 – total 104.47; cash pd 50 – Balance due $54.47. Includes 6.47 from previous term plus all of Xmas Term

**Cheque stubs, 1879-80**

Rev P Matheson 57.19 31 Dec “Bella Norquay”

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| G 8697 | A - 315 | March 8, 1879 | Letter | Norquay, Bella | Park's Creek | Papa [Norquay, John] | Private note. |

My dear papa I write you these few lines to let you know that mamma is sick again were all quite well she had not recovered yet from her sickness I hope that you are quite well the concert passed off well the people say I was to late I came down when the people were going away if you see any pretty notes please buy sum for me I want to work them at school with burlen wool or silk Tom is going to write to tell you abut the house & his work him and John N was just as glad that Mamma did not go for she has been sick all the time that you were off and Andrew says that he is glad he dident go because Mamma did not go so now as I have no more news I must close with kind love we all pray for you to return safe we got your letter I expect one next week so now with love and kisses from all of us I must say good by Your loving Daughter Bella

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| A - 261 | July 27, 1879 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | City (Winnipeg) | Father [Norquay, John] | Friendly matters. |

“My dear Father You will be astonished to know that I wrote this letter in your office. I only found Mr Secretan on the 25 and we are camped at the little Mountain we are running a branch line from the Stoney Mountain to Winnipeg the swamps ar terrible deep as soon as we finish this line we are going west 100 miles or sow I have now [no]comb so I will take yours from your dressing case I came in this morning with Mr Secretan. I have not seen Mr Murdok yet he is not out with us I opend the can of corned beef and had a lunch when I came in this morning.

Mr Secretan is a very fine man.

I am quite well and hope this will find you all the same way give my love to Mamma and all the children

Your affectionate son Thomas Norquay

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| G 8697 | A - 397 | Feb. 20, 1880 | Letter | Norquay, Bella St. John's College | City (Winnipeg) | Papa [Norquay, John] | Private note. |

"My dear papa

I hope you are quite well and I hope mamma is better let me know soon please for I feel very uneasy about her I hope she will be better before Wednesday and if you come for me please come on Thursday so that I will be down in time and please get me a pair of slippers to wear for I am going to wear my white dress and I nead [sic] slippers with it the number that I take in slippers are 5 If I go I am going to be Bella's bridesmaid she told me so that is if she did not chose one already give my love to all at home and tell mamma I am quite well I remain your loving Daughter Bella

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| G 8698 | A - 501 | Aug. 6, 1880 | Receipt | Diocese of Rupert's Land St. John's College Ladies' School | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | $100.00 on account. Bella's school bill. | No Cover |

Form, signed by Canon Grisdale, noting JN paid $100 by cheque on Bella's school bill

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| G 8698 | A - 566 | Dec. 21, 1880 | Letter | St. John's College Ladies' School | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John |

Bella, account, $71.57

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| G 8698 | A - 772 | Aug. 9, 1881 Aug. 31, 1881 | Letter | Adams, C. | Pas Post | Neestaw [Norquay, John] |

**Pas Post Augst 31st 1881**

"Dear Neestaw I wrote you a few days ago by the Northcote regarding myself & requesting your influence to get some office – Registrar or the like in the Sasktn. Since writing as above I have been advised by a friend, whose name I am not at liberty to give, to try for Indian Agency for Ft. Alexander, Brokenhead River, Rosseau, &c. The friend referred to knows all about it & says that the acting agent for Ft. Alexander &c&c, are only employed temporarily. He thinks that there would be little difficulty in yr procuring said position – he will also likely see you & have a talk about it, he is personally known to you – is all I can say. I shall be anxious to hear from you as soon as you can on the subject of, either the substance of this, or my previous letter.

We were both glad & vexed yesterday - glad in receiving quite a lot of letters & vexed that they had been taken past by 'Str Lily' to Carlton then bro't down by 'Northcote.' In any case they were very welcome. They were from Bella, Alex, Horace from Grand Rapids, Tom, Annie & others from outsiders as well as some from my brothers. They like P.A. & are getting along well Joseph had only got out shortly before – 50 days en route but all right – family 7 cattle. They have secured good ½ sec land each.

How Bella does brag up that Tanis of yrs – 'small face, small feet, small nose, small hands & goodness knows what other admirations' -- & everything is 'just like Papas' We can imagine what extravagant loving epithets are showered on the little esgnāchaRan (?) [sic] I wonder.

Well Neesta tell the truth we do rejoice with you. As for yr sister – she is as glad as if it is her own & is only anxious that Elizabeth will not take good enough care of herself. We too have a darling girl & tho' plain at first is now a fine (to us pretty) child – her hair that was dark is light now, very much like the ones' hair, that we lost.

Joe has taken in his head to go to school & has attended this 2 days Charlie is almost as small as ever but has a new name about every month.

We were disappointed in the Gov General not coming down the River great preparations were made to receive him in vain With kind regards to all

Remain yr affte Keestaw C. Adams"

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| G 8698 | A - 794 | Aug. 28, 1881 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | Long Lake, Man. | Father [Norquay, John] | Family matters. |  |

"long lake Dear father I just received your letters from home and hasten to reply. I am glad to hear that you are all well at home. I am very sorry to hear that Mr Hamber is going to leave Parks Creek for I dont think that you can get as good a man in a hurry. Tell Bella I cant write just now I am in a hurry for Davis will soon be leaving long lake is a poor place but on the west side about three mls from the edge the land begins to get better thare is not a stick of wood around the lake but thare is lots of fish thare is lots of fine white fish and the ducks are as thick as black birds we will soon be don[e] and away home again Tell the boys that I received their letters but can answer them just now and that small little sister whose name I cant get my tongue around and I cant see the [lines?] I am well and hope that you are all well at home and now hoping you all all well at home I remain your affectionate son Thos Norquay"

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| G 8699 | A - 1102 | Jan. 19, 1882 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Father [Norquay, John] | Private note. |  |

A little shaky handwriting, lined paper, addressed to Hon J Norquay:

"Dear father I am sorry you did not drop a line to me before you left for below I have don [sic] my first buisnesss [sic] as bailiff and I think I can get along allright as there is not mutch [sic] about it I am quite well and hope you are the same

I remain Your affectionate Son Thos Norquay

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| G 8699 | A - 1167 | June 20, 1882 | Letter | Cowley, E. St. John's Ladies' College St Peter’s | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Report on the progress of Misses Norquay at College. |  |

Dear Mr. Norquay I am sorry not to have sent you the reports of your girls sooner, but since I came down here, many other matters have hindered me writing. You don’t need to be told that they have both worked industriously, though Nelly with more success than Bella, & that in conduct they have both pleased all who have had to do with them. I had hoped Nelly would have taken not merely an examination hon:men: but a prize, but I fancy she did not feel very well that fortnight. Indeed latterly they were neither of them quite equal to their work. A holiday will do them good. Are you not pleased with Bella’s improvement in Music? I think it reflects credit both on her industry, & Dr. Maclegan’s good teaching. I am sorry he gave me no marks, that might have [inserted?] her rank among his pupils. I fancy it is second. Please excuse this half-sheet. I did not notice it when I took it. Remember me kindly to Mrs. Norquay & give my love to Bella & Nelly.

Ever believe me, yours very truly E Cowley

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| G 8725 | C - 1810(a) | [No Date] | Letter | Norquay, Bella | City (Winnipeg) | Papa [Norquay, John] | Re: Beef. |
| G 8725 | C - 1810(b) | Sept. 15, 1882 | Receipt | Yeaddon, Felix | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | To amount of a/c rendered $11.52 Pd. |

“My dear Papa Please pay to bearer the sum of $11.52 for beef received by us

Your loving daughter B Norquay”

The bill itself is for 96 lbs of beef @ 12 c. Received payment 28 Sept 1882

Witness Chas Adams [signed] Felix Yeaddon X [his mark]

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| G 8700 | A - 1462 | [No Date] [ca1882-83] | Letter | Norquay, Bella | [No Location] | Papa [Norquay, John] | Private. | No Cover |

Very nice school-formal hand and glossy watermarked paper:

“My dear papa I am quite well and Nellie I did not take [Mellis’?] hat but do look out it it was put by the boy’s hats. I am not in want of anything just now thank you so now with love to you all at home. I remain your loving Bella

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| G 8700 | A - 1497 | 1882 | Receipts | St. John's College, Ladies' School | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Examination results: Ellen and Bella Norquay. Accounts. | No Cover 4 pp. |

**Miss E. Norquay**, Winter term 1882: board $35, plus English $5, French $3, Drawing $5, Music $8, Books .65, stationery .42, music $1.50, drawing materials $1.80, seat in church .50 total $5587, plus arrears of $60.72 = $116.59

**Miss Ellen Norquay IV class, Spring summer 1882 E. Cowley (Principal)**

Examinations: class II in Scripture and English Grammar, Reading, Writing, and class I in History, Geography, Elocution, Arithmetic and French

Conduct 17th of 31 among boarders, and 3rd of 14 in term’s English

**Bella Norquay, II class, Spring summer 1882 E. Cowley (Principal)**

Examinations: class III in Literature, Arithmetic, II in Scripture, English History, Grecian History, Elocution, Grammar, and I in Physiology, Astronomy

Conduct 3rd in 31 boarders, and 3rd in 5 in standing for term

**Cheque stubs 1883**

Self 25.00 19 Sep Bella N

**8731 LB C: Bella uses dad’s office [family]:**  Isabella Norquay to Ed. ‘Sun’ 15 Nov 1883 [p 400]

“Sir, I notice in your report of the Concert at Parkdale no mention is made in connection therewith of Miss Fulsher our popular teacher and of Mrs. G. Fulsher who were associated with me in getting up the entertainment. In justice to them I beg to say that were it not for the zeal and energy with which they applied themselves to the work there would have been no such event to chair. Allow me through your columns to thank the performers without whose kindly assistance success would have been very probably …[?] Yours truly Isabella Norquay Parkdale

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| G 8701 | C - 28 | Jan. 28, 1884 | Letter | Norquay, Andrew | Parkdale | Norquay, John | Private. |  |

‘My dear papa There has nothing been very notable scince [sic] you left here Mamma has been unwell all last week and Kate is down nursing Edward The Doctor was here last week to see Mamma. Jonny letter has come back and he says he would like to have seen you on business, he says he will not go back until he hears his wages are raised. I think I am getting on better at school because I was put into the Junior four Arithmatic [sic] class. No more news at present with love to you. I remain dear papa your ever loving son Andrew Norquay

“Recd Feb 4 Ansd”

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| G 8701 | C - 38 | Feb. 1, 1884 | Letter | Norquay, Horace | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | [Family matters]. |  |

St. Johns Coll Dear Papa I received your letter yesterday. Louis was up here yesterday and I nearly went down whith [sic] him only that I heard Mr. Mathesone was not in. Louis said mamma was not very well. I thank you for the money that you sent me. We are quite well. Nellie went down with Louis as also did two other girls. There was a consert at the Uneversiy [sic] but the masters would only let the fourth form go. I forgot to tell you that I am in the third form that is the form below Toms. Bella was up to town this week but I did not see her. We had an examination in Arithmetic Mr. Chamber [?] doe every month and I came out first – 84 – out of 86 I bet [beat] the rest of the class by nearly twenty. I would of sent you the paper but I lost it. I go up to town every Saturday to see Alex and in that way I can get news from home every week. The debate last night was which was the more destructive fire or water and the afermetive[sic] side one [won]. I do not expect to go home till you return and then we will all have one grand meeting. I am sure Alex must be lonely up there alone. There is one boy that tries to bully me a little [“but I don’t do an” -- this is crossed out]… yesterday he came and slapped me in the face when I was studying my lesson so I jumped up and chased him round the school and would have given him something to think over if Mr. Walkerton [?] was’ent [sic] in the room. I think I have given you all my news so with my love and good wishes and kisses I will say good bye Horace”

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| G 8701 | C - 31 | Feb. 2, 1884 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas (son) | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Private. |  |

St. John’s College My dear father I have not received an answer to my last and it is now over a week since I wrote you. Horace has and so has Alex and I think all the people who did themselves the honor of corosponding [sic] with you except myself, so I begin to think there must be something in the wind. I saw Bella the other day at the concert at the new College and she told me that she had received several letters from you since you arrived in Ottawa. I hope your mission will be [word missing] for I think your actions are being watched with greater anxiety by the people this time than ever before, in regard to our northern boundary, some declaring that you should even threaten to give up your position as premier if your demands are not acceded to believing that such a course would bring about an advantageous settlement for there are a great many in this province who think that the Government would do almost anything for you in order to retain your support and cooperation in this country.

It has also been rumoured that you are going to accept a seat in the Dominion Cabinet – that of Minister of the Interior, of course I do not know whether you intend to pursue such a course or not but I think you could not do better especially since you have had notions of giving up the leadership of this party and allowing some one else to run the Government for a while, I should think that it would be just as good to play second fiddle in the Dominion Cabinet for a salary of seven or eight thousand a year, as to do so up here for a salary of two or three thousand. I hope you will get back soon for I am thinking long to see you again. We are quite well here at present.

We had a grand concert at St John’s new College on the 30th. There was present about three hundred people.

The cabinet were all there but you and the reporter also has your name down as being present but Jack [Tom’s brother] says that it is his name. He has taken down and prefixed the title Hon to [too]

I hope you are quite well so I will say goodby for the present. I remain your loving son, Thomas Norquay

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| G 8701 | C - 27 | Feb. 3, 1884 | Letter | Norquay, Bella | Parkdale | Norquay, John | Private [family matters]. |  |

“My dear Papa I have written several times in hope that one stray letter might reach you. Do not think that we have forgotten you for we have done nothing of the kind. Mamma and I are both wondering where all the letters I have written have gone too [sic]. We have received all your letters and I think I have answered all of them. Mamma is not very well just now though she is not in one of her very bad headaches. She sends lots of love and kisses to her very dear old pet and is longing to see him. We were hoping to see you back this week and I was telling everyone that I expected you this week but would you believe it they only laughed at me and said that if you came back in three weeks from now you would make good time. I hope you will make extra good time and be back before the other three weeks are up. Kate came back on Saturday evening Edward is getting better now so Kate came up to us Kate says that he is only about half the size he used to be. I am going to have a little tobogganing party on Thursday evening. I shall have about twelve or fourteen. Nellie was down [to Parkdale] on Saturday and she called at the College for Horace but he would not come for he wants to come down when you get back and he says if she had been down he would not get down when you come. I hope you are quite well and getting on well with your work. We examine the papers all the time to try and catch something about you but there is nothing at all scarcely. We hope to see you home very soon[.] never mind the business and come back. Kate sends her love to you and Andrew does the same. I also send my love and kisses for my very dear old papa. If you ( ) kiss that spot that is where I kissed the paper and it will be like kissing me. I remain dear papa, your loving daughter, Bella Norquay

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| G 8701 | C - 43 | Feb. 9, 1884 | Letter | Norquay, Horace | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Private. |  |

Dear Papa I received your letter on Wednesday and was glad to receive your advice. I will have to hurry up just now as it is after dinner and I am going up to town and even if I was not I would keep the other boys who would take my letter. The debate last night was which was more useful a horse or an ox and my side won I was on the ox side and ever invincible there was no good to try against me. I hope that you are well and will come home soon. I have not been home yet and don’t suppose to get home sooner than you. As I will be keeping my partner who by the way is the head boy in school and a youngester [sic] about my own age and size we make a good team.

So with my good wishes and prayers, I remain your affectionate son Horace

PS I will write more fully during the week.

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| G 8702 | C - 285 | 1884 | Prospectus | St. John's Ladies' School | City (Winnipeg) |  | Terms of tuition. |  |

Bella, etc – boarding and tuition prices, laundry,6 towels, dinner napkins and ring, 1 clothes bag, visitors on Saturday at 5:00, and visits out on first Wed. of each month

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| G 8701 | C - 43 | Feb. 9, 1884 | Letter | Norquay, Horace | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Private. |  |

Dear Papa I received your letter on Wednesday and was glad to receive your advice. I will have to hurry up just now as it is after dinner and I am going up to town and even if I was not I would keep the other boys who would take my letter. The debate last night was which was more useful a horse or an ox and my side won I was on the ox side and ever invincible there was no good to try against me. I hope that you are well and will come home soon. I have not been home yet and don’t suppose to get home sooner than you. As I will be keeping my partner who by the way is the head boy in school and a youngester [sic] about my own age and size we make a good team.

So with my good wishes and prayers, I remain your affectionate son Horace

PS I will write more fully during the week.

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| G 8705 | C - 1193 | Dec. 17, 1884 | | Receipt | | Wellband, William | | City (Winnipeg) | | Norquay, Alex | | To amount of a/c rendered $8.00. Paid. | |

2 pr lace boots

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| G 8704 | C - 846 | Dec. 20, 1884 | Letter | Norquay, H. | Parkdale | "Pater" [Norquay, John] | Family matters. |

“Dear Pater We got home from college yesterday & found them all well at home. We are just out of oats for the horses the last was fed this morning I think. I wish you could be home for Christmas. We have hollowdays [sic] till the seventh of January. Jock Ross is going to be in on Sunday. Uncle Tom came home yesterday with us he had two trunks. I don’t have much news as I was only down [to Parkdale] this morning[.] I past second in the examination [illegible] Latin & Greek I would probably have come out first – as it was I be[a]t them in English & Mathematics in Latin I came out pretty far down but passed all right[.] there dosent [sic] seem to be much fun I bought a football blader & I have no cover so I am as bad off as ever till I get one. We all send you our love wishing you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year with many happy returns of the same & hoping that you will be successful I must now close, Your Affectionate Son, H. Norquay”

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| G 8704 | C - 755 | Jan. 10, 1885 | Letter | Norquay, Bella | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John (in Ottawa) | Family matters. |

From “Government offices My dear Papa I came up [to Winnipeg] today expecting to hear that you would be in Winnipeg tonight. I have not written because I thought that you would miss my letter. Mamma had one of her headaches but it was not very severe this time.

“The boys went back to school on Thursday Jack has not gone he waits till you return. Mr. Matheson wishes to see you as soon as you return about Jack. He is very anxious to get Jack back. There has been nothing going since I wrote last. Christie McDonald died very suddenly of convulsions. She had taken salts and got cold with them. The doctor said it went to her heart. She died New Year’s Eve. Nellie had a bad cold and we had the doctor in to see her she is all right now. When do you intend to come home. We are thinking long for you. Andrew is quite excited over the idea of getting a toboggan. He has a slide made already. I came to get forty dollars $40.00 from Mr. Washburn as the money you left us has run out. I hope you are quite satisfied with the results of your mission. We saw by the papers that everything was gained.

With lots of love and kisses I remain dear Papa Your loving daughter Bella Norquay”

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| G 8700 | A - 1462 | [No Date] | Letter | Norquay, Bella | [No Location] | Papa [Norquay, John] | Private. | No Cover |

Very graceful formal handwriting and glossy watermarked paper:

“My dear papa I am quite well and Nellie I did not take [Mellis’?] hat but do look out if it was put by the boy’s hats. I am not in want of anything just now thank you so now with love to you all at home. I remain your loving Bella

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| G 8724 | C - 1437(h) | Feb. 2, 1886 | Telegram | Rennie, Alf. H. | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John [Queens HotelToronto] | Miss Bella will not leave her mother. Mrs. Norquay improving please wire when you leave St. Paul so I can meet you |

Ottawa at Russell House, and Toronto at Queen’s

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| G 8730 | Misc | Feb. 2, 1892 | Receipt | Christ Church | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, Bella | Receipt for donation to building completion. |

Bella pledged and then paid $5.00 for the completion of Christ Church

**Tom and Alexander Norquay, 1885**

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| G 8705 | C - 1243 | May 11 and June 5, 1885 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas (son) | Edmonton and Frog Lake, N.W.T. | Father [Norquay, John] | Re: The war. |

“Edmonton 11 May: My dear Father

I received yours of the 28th of April last night. I was glad to hear that Mamma & all the family were quite well I am thankful to say the same for myself

We arrived in this place yesterday at 1 o’clock & pitched our tents in the flat to the east of the fort at 3 o’clock. The people of this place are the greatest lot of Jobe’s [sic] comforters I ever met as they tell us that we will all be shot going down the river.

We are to go to [Fort] Pitt by barge built for that purpose and now lying at the edge of the bank ready for us to get into.

We have had splendid weather all along the march. I met Mr. McDougal who was in town last fall with Kenneth McDonald. Edmonton is a fine place built up the river the banks of which are about 250 ft high.

The fort has a stockade round it but it is not a very strong place.

The town which extends down the river for about a mile is very finely situated there is not much of a town there being only one row of houses along the bank.

About 14 of our boys were run in to the guard tent last night for being drunk where they got the whiskey is a question I could answer but they got it.

Leacock is getting into very bad odor with the whole regiment and so is the Colonel. both the Colonel & Leacock don’t like Wade for something and are down on him for everything he does or does not do I think he will resign this commission as soon as his leave of absence has expired.

I do not think that Colonel Smith is the great Muckanny [?] he was said to be before he left Winnipeg.

Please write me a little longer letter next time but I don’t know where it will find me for we are going into the heart of the Indian country to try if possible to rescue those unfortunate people who had the bad luck to fall into the hands of the devils.

Big Bear is still on the north side of the river and is reported to have 900 men with him & how we with about 250 men are to drive the old rascal out of his stronghold is rather difficult to explain. However we are going to try & if we don’t do it we will make an effort.

You can address my letters to c/o Col Smith via Edmonton[.]

Hoping you are still quite well, I remain, your living son, Tom.

“June 5th 1885 Frog Lake

My dear Father long before you receive this letter you will have seen Wade & Mills both of whom will be able to tell you all about me. We left Frenchman’s Butte on the 3rd of June & made a long march of 27 miles the first day.

We found more dead bodies today at the settlement & I think that more is still to be found but we are pushing on as hard as we are able in order to head off Big Bear who we are told or suppose is making for Cold Lake which is about 50 miles from us. We are making all haste to get there & General Middleton is pressing him in the rear & we suppose if we can head him off he will either have to fight or surrender.

I am writing this almost in the dark for we have no candles & I have to send out this letter by the mail man in the morning & did not know that he was going out till a few minutes ago

I at one time thought that I might have a chance to get transferred into a mounted corps but the Colonel has not as yet done anything for me.

I do not like my new Captain as well as I did Captain Wade. Major Steel has had a fight with Big Bear and had three of his men wounded.

Please address my letters to Fort Pitt via Battleford. I have no news.

Your son Tom”

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| G 8705 | C - 1089 | Aug. 3, 1885 | Telegram | Norquay, Thomas | Battleford, N.W.T. | Norquay, John | On way home. No action. |

“On the way home will leave here tomorrow all well”

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| G 8705 | C - 1253 | Dec. 17, 1885 | Invitations | Aikins, J.C. Lieutenant Governor | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, Mr. & Mrs.John Norquay, Thomas | Invitations to dinner. |

Dinner and dancing on 17th Dec., 9:00-12:30 – 1 card for Thos. Norquay, and for 1 for Hon Mr, Mrs. And Miss

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| G 8726 | C - 2012(a) | Oct. 27, 1886 | Letter | Osler, Edward | Selkirk | Norquay, John | Re: Politics in St. Andrews. |

I’ve had these 56 names placed on the voters list for St Andrews “on your behalf according to instructions. None of them have been struck off. There are several others I put on whose names I cannot give you till Mr. McDougall receives a return from Judge Ardagh.”

“Mr. Bullock wishes me to speak to you in reference to the expense in connection with getting his title straightened to the various lots which were agreed to be conveyed to parties in town and whose names were placed on the voters list, but struck off. A quit claim deed from each of the parties will be necessary as the agreements are all registered – 13 in all – The Registry fees were $26 which Mr B. is willing to stand but he thinks you ought to rectify the error of the agent who put the names on. I have done everything I could to forward your interests and shall continue to do so. Tho we made no arrangements about what I was to be paid we can settle that without formality.”

Yours truly Edward Osler

Name list includes: David Norquay, Thomas ‘Clandeboye’ Norquay, and Thomas Norquay Jr., James Park Jr, two Linklaters, WR Sutherland Jr., James Munson, Wm Francis Cornish, Jas Cuddy, etc.

**3 b Thomas Norquay, John’s brother**

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| G 8700 | A - 1276 | Nov. 17, 1882 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas (brother) | Virden, Man. | Norquay, John | Introducing Mr. Carroll. | No Cover |

Notepaper, 1 sheet: “Dear John The bearer is a Mr. Carroll of this place, he wishes to be appointed a J.P. The other whom you appointed (Mr. Scarth) has not yet qualified so we have no J.P. here ….people are necessitated to go to Brandon. I am much better though still troubled a little with short breath. I’ll write you a long letter on Sunday. Train just in. Your loving brother, Tom.”

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| G 8700 | A - 1441 | July 10, 1883 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas [brother] | Virden, Man. | Norquay, John | Re: Family matters. | 2 pp. |

My Dear John

Mr. Ogilvie & Mr. McGaw his manager arrived at this place by express yesterday evening to see what inducements there were here for putting up an elevator. I had the pleasure to drive out through the country south with Mr. Ogilvie and a fine jolly fellow he is. I spent a most enjoyable time. He told me many amusing anecdotes in which he and you were the principal actors. For instance the breaking of the spring at Minnedosa and making a poplar sapling do instead

Another: The attempt to go through the marsh or slough at St. James. In telling it he said that he attempted to walk on the pole to unhitch the horses (or something like that) and before he was aware he was into the muck up to the head. I asked ‘did John laugh’ Yes d---- him and what do you think he did next. Why he stripped off his pants shoes &c and waded to the shore, from whence he appeared to enjoy the scene.

He also gave me a graphic account of the new member for Montreal being introduced to the Speaker on Friday night. I can just imagine the time you fellows had. They have gone North West from here this morning, intending to be back in time to take the train for the East. This will be a good place for an elevator. Whether there will be enough grain to be marketed here this fall to justify the expense of course I do not know. But I feel certain from what I hear that there will in the neighbourhood of 250,000 bushels marketed if an elevator is erected here.

When I received your letter re the trip West I felt awfully pleased. I hope you will extend the like invitation when you do go. In fact I shall the [illegible?] invitation good and our trip only adjourned. It is just such a trip I intended to take as soon as I could afford it. I am quite well I hope you and family are the same.

Write and tell me how you all are also any other news you may think would be interesting to me. I am happy that the session is over and you are still sustained, in fact Mr. Ogilvie assures me that after Friday night’s speeches you are stronger than ever such is the earnest wish of

Your affectionate Brother Tom

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| G 8701 | B - 402 | Dec. 10, 1883 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man. | Norquay, John | Asking what coal will be sold for at Virden wholesale and retail. Replied 14 December. See L.B."D". |  |

“Dear John Please write & let us know as soon as possible what will be the prices (retail & wholesale) of coal at this place. WE are 180 miles nearer the coal fields than Winnipeg and 48 nearer than Brandon and we naturally expect to get a little cheaper here than it is sold there. I shall not order any for this place until I hear from you. I think if it was sold at a reasonable figure I could sell some here but I can do nothing until I get a price list I am quite well. Yours truly Thos Norquay”

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| G 8701 | B - 479 | Dec. 20, 1883 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man. | Jack [Norquay, John] | County Clerkship. | 2 pp. |

“Dear Jack In thinking over the matter of the county court clerkship I think it would be better that I should not be appointed to the office. I had spoken to Mr. Cain to accept the office telling him I would recommend him and on second thoughts would rather not accept. I shall post him in the business and receive all the emoluments as long as I wish to do so. I have written to Mr. Woodworth recommending Cain and as it is the fees I want and not the office, it will serve me better than being appointed. I rec’d your letter re price of coal. I am quite well shall not be home till after New Year some time. Would have written to you before but no trains running. Wishing you a Merry Xmas and a happy New Year, Your affte brother Tom.

P.S. Remember me to all your family on Xmas day and give them a New Year’s kiss for me. T.N.

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| G 8701 | B - 455 | Dec. 31, 1883 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man.F1676 | Norquay, John | Stating a car load of coal is there and asking Mr. N. to pay freight charges. |  |

To JN Prest Saskatchewan Coal Mining Co

“A carload of coal here pay freight charges sixty seven dollars fifty”

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| G 8704 | C - 1021 | May 29, 1884 | Telegram | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man. | Norquay, John | Stating he will hold office for 2 years in August. Dealt with by Mr. N. |

“Will hold office two years from August eighty two if not paying will look elsewhere”

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| G 8703 | C - 405 | Aug. 4, 1884 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man. | Brother [Norquay, John] | Private matters. |

“My Dear Brother Your very welcome letter came to hand by today’s mail and I was happy to hear that Neetim [my sister in law, your wife] was out on a pleasure trip I hope her old friend the sick headache won’t claim acquaintance with her this time but that she will enjoy her visit. I wrote to Keetim [your sister in law – my wife] by today’s mail by the time you receive this she will be in receipt of my letter. I was sorry to learn from a letter I recd from her on Saturday that the Twins had the measles. I hope to be able to go home soon and see you all. [translations by Ovide Mercredi: email to gf, 9 Nov 2013]

I am happy to state that I have kept to my resolve to quit the cursed drink and once the resolve is made I find the craving leaving me. The crops all look well up this way. There is a great deal under crop in this section of the country. There is a talk of another elevator being built at this place by Mr. McBain. They want a bonus in the way of wheat from the farmers and they seem willing to grant it. When you have leisure drop me a line. You do not know what a boon it is, give me the general news. I shall do the same to you. You say you are a green widower. I have been so long from home that I almost feel like a yellow widower if such a case ever was. Since quitting the drink I have been working like a good fellow. If you have a spare copy of the Times send it along. There are a good many Grits here but today I and another man were taking stock and I think we can down them (to use a vulgarism). Sheriff Clements is here today selling those blasted Plummer Waggons I foolishly went into last year. I shall not conclude this letter until I have had a good chat with him when I may have some more news to communicate.

I have had a chat with Clements and he wishes to be kindly remembered to you. He says he has lots of horses now and if you should come to Brandon, do not fail to call on him. He is living in Woodworth’s house on First St. Walker and his family are all quite well. The Judge is looking and feeling well. I think I have now exhausted my budget of news therefore will conclude this letter with best wishes to you and all the family. Your loving brother, Tom.

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| G 8703 | C - 429 | Sept. 26, 1884 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man. | Brother Jack [Norquay, John] | County Court Clerk for County of Dennis. |

Dear Brother Jack I wrote to you some time ago anent the appointment of a county court clerk for the County of Dennis, recommending as reminding you that I suggested M. John Cain to the position. He is my Deputy as Registrar. I hear that Mr. F. Scarth is applying for the office. Under no circumstance have him appointed.

He has insulted our mother’s name. Will explain when I see you. I am well barring a bad cold. Write or telegraph whether the appointment is made. If Scarth appointed rescind have reasons. Your brother Tom

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| G 8702 | C - 331 | Oct. 8, 1884 | Telegram | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man. | Norquay, John | Asking who County Clerk Dennis is who has been lately appointed. No action. |

“Hear County Court clark Dennis appointed who is he answer”

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| G 8703 | C - 455 | Oct. 9, 1884 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man. | "Brother" [Norquay, John] | Re: the discharge of his duties. |

“Dear Brother Mr. Howard was here yesterday evening and most likely will report to you and the Government that I have been very derelict in my duties as Registrar.

I have to acknowledge that I have been, and must also say that Mr. Howard has been most kind and considerate towards me and whatever the outcome of his report may be I can have no other feelings but respect for him. In all or nearly all cases there I have not immediately attended to the parties the fees were not prepaid and as you know I was not obliged to attend thereto, more especially as I have been out of pocket when I had to pay the 10% to the Government. I have had a good talk today with my deputy, Mr. Cain and we are both to start in to the books in earnest. If you can do it give me a chance to have them posted before I send in my resignation. I have had a very bad cold for the last month and have not felt fit for anything but am thankful to say feel much better today. Think will be all right in a day or two. Kindest love & best wishes to Meetim and all the family. Your loving brother Tom”

[Additional page:]

“Strictly private Dear Jack: if possible I wish to hold this office for another quarter so as to have the books posted before I leave. If I resign I wish my deputy appointed to the office. Tom”

**Order-in-Council #1639, 5 Nov 1884 (backdated**): Thomas Norquay resigned as Registrar, replaced by William Theodore Ballenden Kennedy – for the Division of Dennis

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| G 8705 | C - 1119 | May 7, 1885 | Letter | Irvine, Wm., Assessor | Almasippi P.O.,Boyne MB | Norquay, THOMAS | Assessment which Mr. N. says is too high. No action. |

Tom complained of his “extraordinary high assessment” -- the assessor replies here – lower than surrounding municipalities, and yes, you couldn’t sell it for that value – “it is a well known fact, that no land here, will bring its actual market value at present…. I might also state that when the government Inspector values lands here, that are nearly all swamp, at three dollars and three dollars and a quarter per acre no person can complain of their assessment. In this municipality there are some thousands of acres of land locked up in the hands of speculators, and no doubt held at a high price, which has a very detrimental effect on the settlement and welfare of this country, and something must be done to settle these lands….”

“PS: By the government Inspector valuing these swamp lands at three dollars per acre it lost us one actual settler last week.”

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| G 8728 | C - 2856 | Jan. 9, 1887 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | St. Andrews | Norquay, John | Re: Margaret Mowat`s claim for Scrip. |

[neat script] “Dear John …” encloses letters from Dept of Interior on the claim “advanced by Uncle Tommy for scrip to be allowed the heirs of his mother Margaret Mowat.”

Dept of Interior’s letter to Margaret McDonald suggests that Thomas Mowat must have given in his mother’s name as Margaret Mowat. “Her name was not Margaret but Mary. Whereas Uncle Tommy’s mother’s name was Margaret and from both letters it appears that the claim of the heirs of Margaret Mowat is allowed no mention being made of Mary Mowat. ….It would be well to see that the scrip allowed to the heirs of Margaret Mowat should be sent to the proper parties….Uncle Tommy never received the scrip $40.00 mentioned in the letter sent you from the Dept (copy enclosed). Uncle Tommy wishes me to send you these copies as you had interested yourself in the matter and as you had been written in reference thereto. Your brother Tom”

He encloses copies of two official letters, and certifies that they are ‘true copy’

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| G 8730 | No # | Oct. 7, 1887 | Letter | Munson & Allan lawyers | City (Winnipeg) | Rennie, A.H. | Re: Deeds for S.E. 1/4 15 & N 1/2 of N.E. 1/14 10, Tp. 9 R6W, Norquay, Thomas to Norquay, John. |

We have a duly executed deed for the SE ¼ 15 and N ½ of NE ¼ 10, Tp9, Rge6 W from Thomas Norquay to the Hon J. Norquay. “Shall we register the same and complete the title?” Please advise…

**Chapter 4 The Letters of James Sanderson**

James Sanderson was a relatively poor labourer who worked as freighter and scout between Montana and the Cypress Hills in the late 1870s and early 1880s. He had been born at Athabasca Landing in 1848 and probably became acquainted with Norquay after his mother and step-father settled on the river lot adjacent to Norquay’s farm in High Bluff. Sanderson’s letters from the Cypress Hills, written in what appears to be a phonetic version of Bungee, illuminated daily life outside the increasingly Victorian and metropolitan institutions of Winnipeg. Sanderson witnessed the pressures associated with obtaining government land grants and the near extinction of bison. In articulating impressions of an historic social transition, the letters express bluntly his own consciousness of place, of newcomers’ racism, and of his reliance on Norquay as he struggled to secure either a landholding or scrip.

One of Sanderson’s letters, written in the spring of 1877, invited Norquay to publicize the behaviour of a senior police officer, behaviour he regarded as racist and hypocritical. Sanderson’s language illustrated the complicated transition required of prairie-dwellers. In Sanderson’s view, Major Walsh was a white European and should have adhered to a “civilized” code of behaviour. He recognized that he, Sanderson, a freighter, belonged on a lower rung of the social ladder and he guessed that Walsh would label him a heathen. In using the term, “Pagin Squaw,” Sanderson may have been parodying what he saw as the whites’ racism or he may have been declaring his own superiority over the young woman whom Walsh had taken into his bed. Norquay would have had to deal with Sanderson’s interpretation based on three social levels: Whites asserted their superiority and had the power to enforce their unwarranted assumptions; the First Nation woman was being relegated to a subordinate status; and Sanderson himself, while acknowledging the status hierarchy within the fort, was making his own claim to equality within this society. His clash with Superintendent James Walsh reduced the impact of his criticism of Walsh’s behaviour but it also revealed an ordinary Bungee anglophone’s perspective on the economic and social revolution he was living through

L.J.RoyWilson “Sanderson, James Francis” *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* <http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/sanderson_james_francis_13E.html>

James Francis Sanderson “Indian tales of the Canadian prairies,” Medicine Hat News (March and April 1894), republished in Alberta Historical Review, 13 (1965) pp7–24. Irene Spry “The ‘Memories’ of George William Sanderson, 1846–1936,” Canadian Ethnic Studies, 17,2 (1985), no.2: 115–34.

**James Sanderson** was born at Athabasca Landing in 1848 and became acquainted with Norquay after his mother and step-father settled on the river lot adjacent to Norquay’s farm in High Bluff. [Parish Land Files, High Bluff, Lot 46/48, File 17, G372, GR1604, NR0217, AM.]

[James Sanderson [photo of JFS in Morrow *Early History of the Medicine Hat Country p 51* – see JN notes, genealogy, E. Cooke] Another better photo on p 94: “James F. Sanderson 1848-1902 Meat Procurer for the N.W.M.P. at Fort Walsh – 1875. Contractor, freighter and pioneer rancher of Medicine Hat district”]”

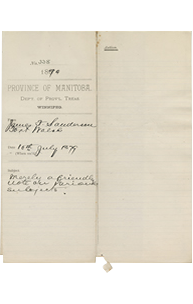
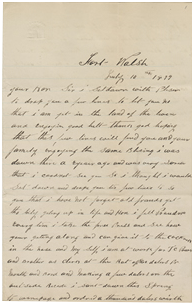
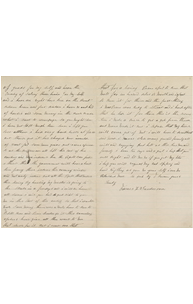
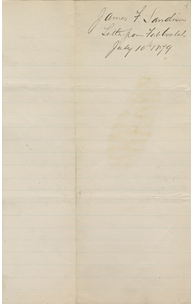
Roderick C. McLeod “Walsh, James Morrow” in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* <http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/walsh_james_morrow_13E.html>

“Walsh had nevertheless antagonized his superiors by behaving ostentatiously for the press. He further weakened his credibility within the force by becoming too sympathetic to the native predicament and too close to the Sioux. He appears to have had a child with a Blackfoot woman and relationships with Sioux women. Given the standards of the time, this behaviour was sufficient in itself to bring about his removal.”

From Archives of Manitoba website: **Gerald Friesen, University of Manitoba**

“The papers of John Norquay are a wonderful treasure. They moved from legislature to family and then to a historian, Ellen Cooke, who gave them to the archives in 1986. They were organized and indexed by Lee Gibson. One unusual aspect: among the five to seven thousand documents are a few that reveal a little about Bungee, the distinctive dialect of English spoken by Red River, Hudson's Bay Company, and northern prairie First Nations in the nineteenth century. This is conveyed in spelling that is closer to phonetic English than Queen's Standard English.

Consider the following example, a letter written by James Sanderson, who was born at Athabasca Landing in 1848 and moved with his parents to a river lot near Norquay's farm at High Bluff. He worked as freighter and scout between Montana and the Cypress Hills in the late 1870s and early 1880s. His letters to Norquay from the Cypress Hills speak of life on the prairies in the late 1870s and early 1880s. This one, written in the summer of 1879, warned of the disappearance of buffalo and shortages of food.”

[](https://www.gov.mb.ca/yourarchives/images/2020/2020-02-27_lg_01.jpg)[](https://www.gov.mb.ca/yourarchives/images/2020/2020-02-27_lg_02.jpg)[](https://www.gov.mb.ca/yourarchives/images/2020/2020-02-27_lg_03.jpg)[](https://www.gov.mb.ca/yourarchives/images/2020/2020-02-27_lg_04.jpg)Letter by James Sanderson  
*Archives of Manitoba, EC 0016 Premier's office files, GR0553, A 0338   
James F. Sanderson (Fort Walsh) to John Norquay, 10 July 1879, G8697.*

*The following is a transcription of the letter, prepared by Gerald Friesen:*

“Your Hon Sir i sit down with Plume to drop you a few lines to let you no that i am yet in the land of the livin and enjoyin good helt thanks god[.] hoping that this few lines will find you and your family enjoying the same blessing[.] i was down there a year ago and was very sorry that i cood not see you[.] So i thought i would sit down and drope you tis few lines to so [show] you that i have not forget old frands yet tho hily [highly] getting up in life and Hon i feel Proudness every tim i take the Free Press and see how your getting along and can give it to the cockies in the nose[.] and my self i am at work for T C Power and brother as clerk at the Rat of $60 dolars per month and Bord and making a few dolars on the outside[.] Becide i send down this spring to Winipage and ordered a thousand dalers wirth of goods for my self and have the [illegible word] of saling them for myself and i have an eight hors teem on the Rowt [route] bitwen hear and Fort Benton[.] i have 30 hed of horses and some money in the Bank Beside what i sent to Winipage[.] so you might see i have not lost much time since i left you last althow i had very hard luck at first but thank god it has changed now[.] i would of sent for som more goods but i was afraid to as the Buffalo are all left this part of this country and more Indians than the Pepell can feed

i think that the government will have a hard time feeding there indins this coming winter and not only indins but all the Pepell that makes their living by hunting My master is going to the Steats in a few days and i will be hear all somer i wis[h] you had a good Bilet [contract] to give me in this part of this contry so that i would mak som money[.] there was a male [mail] hear to run to Batell River and Peaars brother got it[.] this commanding ofisers their gives all their work to men that suck for it but I cant do that for a living[.] Pears oferd [offered] to run that Male for 400 hundred dalers pr month and I oferd to run it for three and the first thing I new Pears was redy to start – and i hard [heard] after that he took it for three[.] this is the second tim i made a Brack to get a sale from them and never made it[.] But I sipose that my time will come yet if not i will have to do without and now I must close wising [wishing] you and family all well and enjoying good helt as this has me and family i have two boys and a girl[.] i hop that you will right [write] and let me no if you get my leter i hop you will exques [excuse] by bad speling and hand righting as you no your self i am no aducted [educated] man so good by I remain yours truly.   James F. Sanderson”

**Sanderson (Fort Walsh, Cypress Hills) to Norquay, 1 March 1877, NPP, A - 104**

“Dear John I Set Down this Day to Drope you this few lines to let you know how I am and how I am doying [doing] I am will and wis [wish] you the sam I have No News to inform you only that the Buffalow is very close all winter and lots of trad and lots of foon [fun?]I am hired with I G Baker and Company for one year for trader and getting very good wages and getting along very will with my Boss But the Major of this Plase has goat the hall thing in his hands and I had a Big Jaw with him the other Day and I Don’t Know how it is [it? sic?] to turn out yet. But I ask you to Do Me a faver to Put this few words in the Papers for me

last fall the Majer Made a Super [supper] on the 25 of us and sad [said] that it was his Daughters Birth Day Chairs [cheers] was given to the girl and the Major But Super [supper] came on and the Gentlemen Sat Down and thair came in a Pagin Squaw and sat by the Major loocked strang [strange] to me the Boys told Me that was the Major Bad mat [bedmate] and I found out after that it was so my Self it is hard for us hethens to Do the right thing when the Sevelist [civilized] People comes and Shows such excampedes [escapades] This Man has a family at the country he came from Deair John I often wis [wish] I had your hed ]head] and you Straung [your strength] to give this Major Walsh a lesen [lesson] I wis ]wish] you to Do this for me But Don’t sine [sign] my Name at all yet Pls right [please write] and let me know I send this to you for you to mand it [distribute?] where you see it neds [needs] it as you know I am no Sklams [Siklans?] my self My Best Wises [wishes] to you and family

Exquse my poor hand Righting [handwriting] Your Truly James F Sanderson

**Sanderson (Fort Walsh) to Norquay, 10 July 1879, NPP, A - 338**

“Your Hon Sir i sit down with Plume to drop you a few lines to let you no that i am yet in the land of the livin and enjoyin good helt thanks god hoping that this few lines will find you and your family enjoying the same blessing i was down there a year ago and was very sorry that i cood not see you So i thought i would sit down and drope you tis few lines to so [show] you that i have not forget old frands yet tho hily [?highly?] getting up in life and Hon i feel Proudness every tim i take the Free Press and see how your getting along and can give it to the cockies[?] in the nose and my self i am at work for T C Power and brother as clerk at the Rat of $60 dolars per month and Bord and making a few dolars on the outside Becide i send down this spring to Winipage and ordered a thousand dalers wirth of goods for my self and have the [??] of saling them [ ??] for myself and i have an eight hors teem on the Rowt [route] bitwen hear and Fort Benton i have 30 [and] hed of horses and some money in the Bank Beside what i sent to Winipage so you might see i have not lost much time since i left you last althow i had very hard luck at first but thank god it has changed now i would of sent for som more goods but i was afraid to as the Buffalo are all left this part of this country and more Indians than the Pepell can feed

i think that the government will have a hard time feeding there indins this coming winter and not only indins but all the Pepell that makes their living by hunting My master is going to the Steats in a few days and i will be hear all somer i wis[h] you had a good Bilet [contract?] to give me in this part of this contry so that i would mak som money there was a male [mail] hear to run to Batell River and Peaars brother go it this commanding ofisers their gives all their work to men that suck for it but I cant do that for a living Pears oferd [offered] to run that Male for 400 hundred dalers pr month and I oferd to run it for three and the first thing I new Pears was redy to start – and i hard [heard] after that he took it for three this is the second tim i made a Brack to get a sale from them and never made it But I sipose that my time will come yet if not i will have to do without and now I must close wising [wishing] you and family all well and enjoying good helt as this has me and family i have two boys and a girl i hop that you will right [write] and let me no if you get my leter i hop you will exques [excuse] by bad speling and hand righting as you no your self i am no aducted [educated] man so good by I remain yours truly James F. Sanderson”

**Sanderson (Fort Walsh) to Norquay, 18 January 1880, NPP, A – 392**

“Your Honer Der Sir I am sorie to have to inform you about my welfare in the North West during the last few month past i had to leve my master on the tenth of November on a count of ben sick not ben abile to work after a month i was geting beter and was abell to travel the mane [men?] of the forse asked me to go in to Benton for liquor for them for crissmis for they wanted som respancibile person to go in and they though that i might do i thald them that i would go if it was all right so they thald me to go and see the commending officer my self to make sure and i dan so and the officer thald me to see the colonel and thald him about it he thald me that if had the permits to go and get it that he had no abjecton of me giving it to the mane [men] i Braught in 15 galenes [gallons] and sold it to them thald them what i would give it to them for Before Starting it was all right ontill the 26 December and my haus was Searched and Porson [portion] of my Permit was found in the hause But not much which i was taken before one of the oficers for having it in my pasesan [possession] unlofely [unlawfully] i thald him that i did not so my slagh [sleigh] was examined in front of the fort and was found corect and that i pade duty for all i braught in and had permits for all and that this was part of it so he sade that i would have to aper [appear] befor the commending officer the next day and i would have to give 200$ Bond before i cood go ham [home] that night i gave them and went hame the nex day i was Braught before them all the liquor was not Manced [mentioned] at all what was talked about the night Before the first thing the officer asked me was if i sold any of the liquor that i pack in i thald him that i thaught that was rather a queer queston to ask me after me theling [telling] him what was my Bisenes [business] before i started but as he ask me i would thell the truth and that i did so he sade that i was found gilty of goying [going] agints [against] the lase [laws] of the NW and that he would fine me 200$ for it i thald him it was prety stape [steep] for the farst ofence but i saposed that i would have to pay it But i did not think that it was fare so he braught it down to 100$ i pade it the risen [reason] why i took ther word for it they gave a sarten [certain] man hear last crismes [Christmas] the persimsan [permission] to sell som liqur on crismes and it was all right that howe they roped me in and now after all this lang talk i want you to tell me who brake the law me or them i think myself that it is a Perfect Swindell it is not the money that i am talking about but the disgres [disgrace] i have brought on myself on ther account i am righting to you about this thing as a frand and i wish you to let me no what you think about it wether they have the atharity to give such Permisan or not the Pepal hear have ben talking about trying to get a giusts [justice] of the Pise [peace] independent of the palis farse [police force] they wanted me to right about it but i wanted to hear from you first for this is a wane sided Ringiming all the way thraw i wis [wish] you would look out for a plase [place] for me if there is any plase open for a man like me out heair?[here?] such as this farmers have i sa [saw] your frand Mr Setter out heair and ingeles there all right but harmless farmer engles is i think and now i must close hoping you will do your best for me there is a plase open now for a interpreter when the agent comes out if he das not bring one with him all my family are well and my self, hoping that this will find you and your family injoying the same blessing exques my poor hand righting as you no your self i am no educated man yours hambell sarvent

James F Sanderson”

**Sanderson (Fort Benton) to Norquay, 31 May 1882, NPP, A - 1188**

“Dr Norquay I wis you to inform me what staps a man cood tak to hold any minerell out heair i have a coll [coal] seem [seam] out at Cypris Hills i think that it will be good in a few years if i cood hold it it is 12 feet depe and quit[e] a [? illegible] but i think that the whits[whites] will get hold of it if i don’t take som staps in presiving [preserving] it. So i just thought of manching [mentioning] it to you this morning i am heair with one of your old frands Mr Muckele[Ma??] bying suplis [buying supplies] for the CPR i have not bin home for over a mont I rought [wrote] to you from Mapel farm som time ag [ago] i hope you have rescivd my leter I will be going back to Walsh in a few days In so saying you will gratly oblige your Hombl Sarvint James F. Sanderson”

**James F. Sanderson (Fort Walsh) to Norquay, 26 June 1882, NPP, A – 1163**

“Dear Norquay[:] I again set down to drope you a few lines to ask you what is the mater that I have not recived any ancer from you about any thing that I have riten to you about I had no other relibel [reliable] frand to right to about this things But you and I don’t know what is the mater that you haven’t ritn [written] to me althow I no that you have a gradile [great deal] to do But have time now and try and let me no about my half Bread right and oblige your old frand James F Sandersan”]

**Sanderson (Fort Walsh) to Norquay, 21 September 1882, NPP, A – 921**

"Fort Walsh Sep 21 Dr Norquay i Receavd you cind [kind] leter the other day and was glad to heair from you i have no news to inform you of i have Ben hard at work all somer piling up hay and about the coll [coal] mine i will let you no about it Prety soon and i hop you get it for me i have a few dolers to spend on it if there is any money in it No More at Present hoping you are all well i Reman yours truly Frand

James F Sanderson"

**Sanderson (Fort Walsh) to Norquay, 25 September 1882, NPP, A – 918**

"Fort Walsh Sep 25 Dr [dear] Norquy [sic] i set down this day to ask you to try and find out about my land grant i never got any thing and all my Brothers and my Mother and all the Rast got theirs four years ago when i was down there i took witness ther and want Proved my claim and never hard [heard] any thing about it if you find it out i will Pay you for your trabill[trouble] and also a frand [friend] of mine Charles McAllister Son of James McAllister of St Andrews and Right [write] to me and let me no about them and oblige your humble Sarvant James F. Sanderson"

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| G 8701 | B - 497 | May 3, 1883 | Letter | Sanderson, James F | South Qu'Appelle NWT | Norquay, John | Half breed claims. | 2 pp. |

Mr Norquay Sir i sand this noat with Jas Tanner to go and see you to help him to find my halfBreed Right a miner clame and my wife Maria McKay of Hedeling [Headingly] age 27 and if you don’t find it Right and let me no what to do about it i came down with Indins and i will Be going Back tomora and maby go to Batlford and fort Pit and if you get a chanct to Put in a good word for me to the indian department do so and i don’t think i will make you asamed [ashamed] if you get me a jab Jas will tell you all about me i am sore that i canot go and see you my self and now i must close

Hoping you and yours all well I remin yours truly James F. Sanderson

And I sand you the Bill of My Catell Killed by Big Beaer and Little Pines Bands of Indins at Walsh last fall this is Quit [quite] an acloss [ac loss?]for a Poor Man

Next sheet:

**Sanderson (Fort Walsh, Oct 7 Nov 1882), to Hon John Norquay NPP, B497 Winnipeg** “Fort Walsh October 1882 and Nov 82

Catell Killed By indins Eight cows and one Steaer Price $50.00 pr head $450.00”

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| G 8725 | C - 1694 | Feb. 19, 1886 | Letter | Sanderson, James T. | Medicine Hat, N.W.T. | Norquay, John | Asking if he would get anything from Gov't. for cattle killed by Indians. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| G 8726 | C - 1966 | Nov. 4, 1886 | Letter | Sanderson, James F. Hargrave, James | Medicine Hat, N.W.T. | Norquay, John | Re: Applying for lease of 14.5 W for ranching. |

Please apply for a ranching lease on west side of river of Tp 14, Rg 5 W of 4th

**5 The Letters of Charles Adams and Family**

**Verna Redhead, June Kelly and Jackie Hobbs *The Descendants of George Adams and Ann Heywood* (published by the authors, Prince Albert and Christopher Lake and Spruce Home SK, 1994) my copy thanks to John McDonald, Marcelin SK**

See Bruce Donaldson and Martha McCarthy “Bélanger, Horace” in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*

**On the Charles Adams clan: See the family history Ellen Cooke Papers**: **File #6: 8 Sep 1966 J T Norquay** [rough note]: “great affection between Premier and Mrs. Ch. Adams (Premier’s half-sister)” and: **File #5: Jacob T. Norquay file:** “22 Sept 1965. Children of Charles Adams….” [handwritten note, sgd Ellen Cooke: -children of Charles Adams and Nancy (Norquay) Adams, half sister of Premier Norquay, as given in letter from Conrad Ernest Adams to Jacob Truthwaite Norquay, written from Czar, Alberta, on 22 Sept 1965: Thomas Alexander Truthwaite Adams, Horace Charles Adams, Annie Georgena (?) Adams (Mrs. John Beddome), Joseph Heywood Adams, John George Adams, Catherine Isabella Adams, Maria Adams, Conrad Ernest Adams, Ada Theodora Adams, Eva Evelyn Adams” ie 10 children

File#5. Mrs. Mary Savage [Mrs. Alfred Savage] “Telephone conversation with Mrs. Alfred Savage in May 1965” [sgd: Ellen Cooke] 2 page typescript: Adams family lived close to the Savages in Calgary.

[Adams, Annie, nee **Norquay** - Concerning her claim as head of family - Address, Prince Albert - Born, Winnipeg, August 18, 1846 - Father, John **Norquay**, (Métis) - Mother, Nancy Ward, (Métis) - Married, August 17, 1865 in St. Andrews to Charles Adams - Children living, seven (names and birth dates on application) - Children deceased, one - Scrip for $160 - Claim 1373 =](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=1497183&rec_nbr_list=1502464,1502462,1502460,1497183,1504595,1502815,1500862,1500218,1500217,1497184) Digital

Head of family, $160. “Lived in Manitoba until 1865 when I became a permanent resident of the Territories…”

Eight children, one (John b. 1872-died 1878) died, and seven living, b. 1866-1883.Signed X – Annie Adams, her mark

Prince Albert, 22 July 1885

North West Half-Breed Commission – she was living in NWT in 1870 so entitled to scrip as a “Halfbreed”

20. [Adams, Charles - Concerning his claim as head of family - Address, Prince Albert - Born, Red River, St. Paul, 1838 - Father, George Adams, (English) - Mother, Ann Heywood, (Métis) - Married, 1865 at St. Andrews to Annie **Norquay** - Children living, seven (names and birth dates on wife's application) -Children deceased, one - Scrip for $160 - Claim 1372 =](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=1497184&rec_nbr_list=1502464,1502462,1502460,1497183,1504595,1502815,1500862,1500218,1500217,1497184) Digital  
19uu. File.  
**RG15-D-II-8-b**

Head of family, $160

b. St Paul, Red River, and moved to Territories in 1861. Hudson’s Bay clerk and farmer.

Married Annie in 1865 at St. Andrews

Living on his homestead, has entered for 80 acres on it.

He had an earlier claim in Manitoba which he has since sold.

The value of all his property is about $1500.

He never received land or scrip in Manitoba

Receives scrip for $160.

Charles Adams wrote wonderful letters, newsy and thoughtful, and it appears that John replied regularly. Shipments of alcohol from Winnipeg figured occasionally in these exchanges. Adams used the code word “molasses” to conceal his orders of alcohol because of the prohibition laws in the North-West Territories, but their relationship was based on much more than that. John spoke occasionally with Charles Adams about political events. One time when he did so was in 1875, when he wrote defensively about his leap from opposition benches to the government side. Adams was quick to dispel Norquay’s concern: “You spoke about politics as if I would bother my head about it – that does not bother me, if you are fortunate I was thankful & glad at your success[.] indeed I was delighted in reading some articles in Feb[ruar]y *Free Press* in your favour, tis true they may have had an object in view but still was always in yr favour. I trust you will always be guided by the same principles in future.” Charles Adams (Victoria, Saskatchewan) to Norquay13 Aug 1875, NPP, A – 190.

A year later (in 187???) only one of the boys remained at the Norquays, presumably going to school, helping with the chores and learning the business of farming:

Charles and his wife, John’s half-sister, Nancy, took the drastic step of giving up their

career in the Hudson’s Bay Company and, in the summer of 1883, moved to the pioneer farm community at Red Deer Hill, near Prince Albert, between the north and south branches of the Saskatchewan River. To launch into farming in a district so far from railways was a risky experiment and Charles confessed his doubts to the premier, but he seems to have joined his brothers, settling on land next to that of newly-arrived Andrew Spence, a relative from High Bluff. He then set to work. They were building a house, bringing in the crop, and coping with the birth of a son in the fall.

The Adams’s move from The Pas to the Prince Albert area in 1883 came after years of disappointment and family discussion. Times had been tough in the company service and traders’ incomes were declining. The disappearance of the buffalo herds and the spread of pioneer farm operations diminished the fur trade along the lower Saskatchewan. A farm in the Prince Albert district was a gamble, as Charles acknowledged. He was giving up an annual income of about $750 that no longer sustained his large family in exchange for the uncertainties of a homestead. Charles Adams told Norquay that his annual income included $600 from the HBC and $120 from the Canadian government (he dispensed drugs to the First Nations of Treaty #5 for a retainer of $10/month).

Adams’s letters to Norquay in 1883-84 hinted at a coming crisis in the North-West. His new neighbours in the Prince Albert district had been shocked by the CPR’s decision to run the transcontinental line through the southern prairies, rather than heading northwest from Winnipeg to Edmonton (as had been the plan in the 1870s). Simultaneously, Adams was running into problems with the bureaucracy that accompanied widespread dissatisfaction in the North-West with the federal lands administration. He wrote Norquay in May 1884 asking for help with his claims for a homestead and pre-emption. In this letter, Adams also gave Norquay notice of political tensions: “French & Eng halfbreeds joined in grievances[.] sent delegates to Riel in Montana[.] Jas Isbister championing Eng. side – left [May]19th. Riel to be invited in.” It was a significant warning: the uniting of the French and English-speaking Métis under Riel struck a note that revived memories of the Assiniboia resistance movement fifteen years before.

Crops in the Prince Albert district were slight that summer and Adams, fearing that his family faced an “Egyptian famine,” appealed to Norquay for a loan as he contemplated a long, cold winter. Norquay was sympathetic, despite his own financial troubles, and promised to try to help, though he admitted frankly that he might not be able to do so. Horace Adams to Norquay, 8 November 1884, NPP, C – 375, and Horace Adams to Norquay, n.d. [ca. fall 1884], NPP, C – 417, and Charles Adams to Norquay, 31 December 1884, NPP, C – 675.

News of Riel’s arrival in the territory in the summer of 1884 and of his political campaign swept up many Saskatchewan residents in a moment of hope. The London *Times* observed in November that “a large force of mounted police” had been marshalled in Prince Albert and that “General Riel’s movements are being carefully watched, but he has done nothing hitherto which would justify interference with him.” *The Times* (London) Monday, November 03, 1884, reporting a dispatch from Ottawa dated 2 November 1884.

A mid-January dispatch to Norquay from Red Deer Hill, written by Charles Adams’s son, Joseph, mentioned the ongoing political discussions: “There was a meeting at Prince Albert yesterday.... there is to be another one on Wednesday 21first[.] papa has to be down there again.” Joseph Adams to Norquay, 16 January 1885, NPP, C 689(a).

A second warning, though it might have escaped his notice, came in mid-February, when Joseph’s brother, Horace, inserted a brief line in a longer, newsy letter: “Mr. Jackson and another fellow came here today.” Jackson was one of Riel’s closest allies in the English Métis community. Horace Adams to Norquay, 3 March 1885, NPP, C – 648

Charles Adams was trying to draw a line between reasonable political protest and the extremes endorsed by Riel and his English-speaking supporters. He favoured the moderation represented by his brother-in-law’s Manitoba campaign for change. He saw virtue in political action. And disaster in violent conflict. Adams blamed short-sighted agitators among the Prince Albert and Battleford settlers for the military conflict and reacted with disappointment, if not disgust, when eastern-origin leaders of the military campaign launched into a war with First Nations people.

Adams’s experience was especially illuminating because it illustrated the difficulties accompanying the decline of the fur trade, the decimation of buffalo herds, and the launch of pioneer farms far from markets and the recently re-routed CPR. The challenges that he described, and the decisions he made, accorded with Norquay’s perceptions of the political climate. Together, Adams and his *neestaw* lamented the disasters visited upon the people whom the premier described as “my countrymen.”

The letters that followed, closing out the eventful year 1885, resumed the round of family news and left talk of the armed uprising behind, though one such note forecast an Indigenous resistance movement.

Norquay may have recognized the difficulties of the Adams family’s circumstances and been sympathetic but his knowledge of their situation was far from complete. When he suggested they move to a site more favourable for farming, Charles challenged him: “You speak of us leaving this blasted place! All very true but where could we go to? Do you know any place? Many come to something of same idea also, I fear this is not a farming country at all, too far north.” Charles Adams (Prince Albert, N.W.T.) to Norquay, 30 June 1885, NPP, C – 1024. It appears that they moved west to Alberta a few years later.Ellen Cooke. “Jacob Truthwaite Norquay, 22 September 1965” [son of Thomas, John Norquay’s brother) handwritten notes of interview, 7pp; also contains a list of the children of Charles Adams [Ellen Cooke’s handwritten note, signed] Ellen Cooke Papers, AM, File #6

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| A - 188 | May 13, 1875 | Letter | Adams, C. | Victoria [The Pas?!] | Norquay, John | Family and friendly matters. |

“My dear John

Joe Favell is about leaving for Red River so I shall write you a short note by him. I am glad to say we are all well just now & are living in peace, but not in plenty. Provisions are pretty scarce, tho’ we have a little. Buffalo are scarce this spring tho’ they were plentiful all winter but as Robes was the [rage?] no one made any provisions, hard times is the result particularly by the Whitford & Anderson tribe. Your sister is well but just now is in dread of a little trouble in accordance with the course of nature. I hope by next chance I shall be able to give you a good a/c of all. She is sending a pair of shoes to you & Tom. Horace is going to challenge his cousin H for a race next summer. Nancy wishes very much for you to send her your likeness we hear that you are getting so fearfully big. We wd like to see you. Nancy also wishes you to kiss the baby, in course I suppose, for her. I have not one man at present. The Coy is gee into saving. So I have all the work to look after alone I have lost 11 lbs in weight in twice that no. of days. I can hardly get time to write this, I have men packing by the day, & while at a pack I am scribbling this, I have made a good trade this year near 700 robes besides other furs. I trust to see you next year. We are going to leave the HBC Can’t have anything whatever in service, try something else. Nancy & all of us send our love to each and all of you &remain always, Yrs affly

C Adams

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| A - 190 | Aug. 13, 1875 | Letter | Adams, C. | Victoria, Sasktn | Norquay, John - Neestaw [Brother-in-Law] | Friendly and family matters. |

My dear Neestaw

I am glad to acknowledge the receipt of your favour by Mr. J. Brown, on the 23rd ult. We were very glad to hear you were all well, particularly as letters from RR were something like angels visits, as for Tom he seems to have forgotten us all together now & uncle does not write so frequently either. With regard my leaving the service, I have given in my resignation already but it is not accepted yet – having been desired to reconsider it. Since then I have seen Insptg C.F. Hamilton & I was satisfied that an item of 98 [pounds] stg in my a/c which has been disputed by me will be all right, so that with other minor points settled to my satisfaction may make change in my future arrangements. I also have hopes to get leave to visit RR with my family next spring, where I trust to see you all in the enjoyment of health & happiness. It is probable that if I remain I shall be sent to take charge of St Ann’s again & conjointly Jaspers House at the R. Mtns. I was very fortunate at this post last winter. Mr Bruce made a loss of $1500 in ’73 Outfit & I was lucky to make $700.00 clear profit this last outfit .

You spoke about politics as if I would bother my head about it – that does not bother me, if you are fortunate I was thankful & glad at your success indeed I was delighted in reading some articles in Feby Free Press in your favour, tis true they may have had an object in view but still was always en yr favour. I trust you will always be guided by the same principles in future.

The steamer “Northcote” made a successful trip up to Edmonton from the Grand Rapids which she done in 21 days. The water being only medium depth at the time from here to E. We had 6 ft water, shallowest places. I enjoyed my trip in it very much. They had to warp up 15 of the Rapids of the Cole’s Falls & 1 Rapid between Fort Pitt & here. The boat is 150 ft & has rather too little power for the size or she wd not warp up so many places. We expect her again about the 20th inst. I trust this will find you & yours all well & with our united love to you & Elizabeth & family, I remain, always yrs sincerely Charley

PS Nancy still looks out for your photograph every mail (which are now monthly!)

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| A - 189 |  | Nov. 2, 1875 | Letter | Adams, Robert | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Asking for $7.50 due to Louman Estate which Mr. N. promised to pay. |

Hon John Norquay

Dear Sir I recd a summons concerning a debt due to the Lowman Estate a debt which I took through your recommendation in the spring of 1873 when I was getting out your wood you told me then to take from Lowman shop and you would pay him. The sum due is $7.50. I’m hard up and don’t know how to meet the Bill. Try and let me have the above amt by next mail. If you have never settled with the Late Lowman for me. And you will oblige Yours Kindly, Robert Adams

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| A - 192 | Dec. 5, 1876 | Letter | Adams, Charles | Pas Cumberland Dist | Norquay, John, Neestaw [Brother-in-law] | Friendly and family matters. |

“My dear Neestaw

As our friend & Bourgeois Mr. Belanger is to pass here tomorrow en route to Canada, or the lower provinces, I shall avail myself of scratching a few words. Since we left, for some time our children did not enjoy good health until lately but now they are all right except Tom who remains rather thin but perhaps because when he is growing. Baby is all right but not yet weaned & is getting a bad boy as his mother believes that he ought not to be punished. Your namesake John is getting quite stout & is looking as if he wanted to take after you. By the way did you send out a Keg of 4 or 5 gal of keg whiskey out to my address for last steamer Colville as a keg came & I found it, but shared it with Mr. Chivers as he expected some out & I think was advised by some one in authority out here to address to me. Any way I divided with Jack, but best of all the other day we got a hint that it was as likely it was for our parson, the Rev H. Cochrane but we are not certain yet. If so, it is a splendid joke. You must see Mr Belanger, he always speaks of you & has been a good friend of ours since we knew him they are both very kind people, he & Mrs. B. I trust to hear from you at great length per winter packet. Remember us to Betsy & my dear little nephews & nieces. Nancy desires to hear the same, kiss each for us the aff/ [sic] little monkeys do the same to Kate if she is with you. She must send us a piece of the wedding cake or I shall never forgive her. If she had come with us she might have had a good chance to spoon with a young clerk that is with us this winter – a Mr. Beatty. I shall now close hoping you are all well & doing well & again with kindest love from us all to each & all of you, I remain, yr aff brother C Adams

PS Nancy is sending a little parcel to your address – dear John all can’t be remembered in some shape tho don’t think less – it is care Mr.-Mrs B Yrs aff CA

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| A - 112 | Jan. 14, 1877 | Letter | Adams, Charles | Pas, Cumberland District | Norquay, John | Private friendly letter on different private family matters. |

My dear John

I am most sadly disappointed in not getting only [one] solitary letter from any one of my friends in Manitoba at all, not even a line…

I start back tomorrow from here, Cumbd House, where I had come on a visit & also to be able to answer my letters – what a bill! [jell, pill, fell, ?]

Please find out how my mother is doing and, if she needs any money, please help her.

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| A - 101 | July 10, 1877 | Letter | Adams, C. | Pas [cover sheet says “Victoria” perhaps mission? | Norquay, John | Friendly and family matters. |

“…Nancy has quite recovered again. She is now quite well. We are waiting for the Northcote to come down. She is to return from Carlton again instead of going to Edmonton as was expected so by her return we are going to send in the boys & if possible Nancy will try & get a passage along with them. Mr McTavish does not like the boys to go without a guardian so we have hopes he will let her go in with them….”

“Mr. McTavish told me he saw a small ­keg of Molasses for me on the Colville, but as the Northcote had left the Grand Rapids already, he did not bring it. All in good time. He passed here his 4th day from Fort Garry & would be at Cumberland next morning. I presume that beats everything in the past.”

“I am surprised that no papers or letters have come for me at all …something wrong somewhere.

I wish you would order for me a copy of the weekly Globe (Toronto)…. I subscribe to the Free Press (Man.) & Montreal Witness, but get very few. One way or the other I may get some papers. Clemons is club[b]ing with me, please order it at once & you would oblige me. Don’t forget some postage stamps by mail, first chance. …

“Should you not receive any word from me try & send me a little more molasses for winter use, before close of navigation – don’t forget –

Good bye for this time – hoping you & family are all quite well & with …love to you all, I remain Sincerely yours &c, C Adams

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| A - 114 | Aug. 7, 1877 | Receipt | Drummond, J.A.K. Collector of Taxes | High Bluff, Man. | Norquay, John | Receipt for Mrs. Chas. Adams taxes. |

“Received from Chas Adams per Honble J Norquay amt of taxes for 1876 & 1877 – in all $3.60.”

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| A - 200 | Aug. 30, 1877 | Letter | James, W. J., Registrar | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John | Understand he is acting for Chas. Adams and wishing information relative to a lot of land at High Bluff. |

“Dear sir

I understand that you are acting here on behalf of Mr Chas Adams and I therefore wd feel obliged if you would kindly afford me the following information – Mr Dalzell bought a lot of land at High Bluff from Joseph Halcrow. This lot has a mtge registered agst it in favour of Mr Chas Adams. Mr A Spence who holds a power of attorney for Halcrow says the mtge has been lifted but there is no release in the books here. Wherefore Mr. Dalzell wd be glad to know whether there is any, or if any what circumstance there is on the lot in favour of Mr Adams. If you would reply at your earliest convenience you will oblige me greatly. Kindest regards to Mrs Norquay & self. Yours sincerely W J James

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| G 8729 | No # | Sept. 13, 1877 | Letter | Codd, Donald Dominion Lands Agent | Winnipeg | Adams, Charles | Re: Hay Scrip. . |

To Charles Adams, Parish of High Bluff: Pick up hay scrip, under Act 37 Vict, Cap 20. If unknown to agent, bring someone to identify you or send an agent on your behalf carrying power of attorney

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| A - 6 | Jan. 9, 1878 | Letter | Adams, C. | Pas Post | Neesta [Brother-in-Law - Norquay, John] |

“Dear Neesta

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of last fall, I also recd the things you sent me, we got it all by open water & that was all, fortunately Mr Belanger made a late trip down to Grand Rapids. I can assure you everything was most acceptable & one thing in particular, our friend did not get a smile at all there [then] so that was most opportune. Mr McTavish saw the case at GR [Grand Rapids] but he is not the man to take particular notice of such things when he knows who don’t abuse such things, he always had some for me when others did not get a sight of any. I was able to let Mr B have a little now & again, but it is nearly dead now. I wish you could get me a Recapper (bore 20) if possible, … also a thousand control fire caps, also, what has become of my Rifle I sent you last summer to get a mouthpiece & [birt, burl, verb] put on?”

“Mr. Belanger has guaranteed a passage to Nancynext spring to Manitoba… her health is better than last summer, tho’ not the best & I hope the trip will do her much good, seeing the boys & medical advice together will do her good I need not say she frets much about the boys, but we both are not sorry for a moment we sent them away, we could never have them at this place, it is simply aweful [sic] to bring up a family here & having them at your place reconciles us much, only I feel for poor Betsy – how much she must be bothered with so large a family to look after, & she too, being not one of the strongest. We were glad beyond measure to get letters from the boys, & hope they will continue writing by every chance.

“I am glad to say our trade is good again this year, a good deal ahead of last year to date & the last year was ahead of the year before, so that we can’t complain, but this is a difficult place to manage. It is allowed to be the most difficult subordinate post in the Country but I am bound to manage it & the people, too, or else get a whaling, they are hard cases & fear a little an old Blkft Trader, for I talk knife & gun to them now & again pretty freely, tho’ to tell you the truth a good deal is assumed, but it has to be done & never have I had to take my Boot from anyone as I have to do here. I fear sometimes that assumed wickedness may exert influence on a chap, but that we must try & guard against. An Indian, like a dog, will love you better after a good kicking. It is always my policy to be just & true to an Indian, but at the same time woe to him if he does not go straight. By the way you never acknowledged receiving those Tongues Mr. Belanger sent you thro’ me last summer also an order in my favour on Fort Garry for I think $37.00 or something like that, I had forgotten to endorse it. Was it all right? “…Remember us kindly to Betsy & kiss the children for yours & ours – How happy would I be to come in upon Betsy & my little Nephews & Nieces & poor little Horace & Tom. & now wishing you all a happy New Year & best love I remain Dear Neesta, Yours affly C Adams”

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| A - 2 | Jan. 24, 1878 | Order to Pay | Adams, James | High Bluff, Man. | Norquay, John |

“ To Honl John Norquay: Pay to William Davis or Andrew Spence the sum of twenty five dollars & sixty cents … and charge to my acct. [sgd] James Adams”

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| A - 1 | March 4, 1878 | Letter | Adams, James | Poplar Point, Man. | Norquay, John | Asking for money due. |

“You would oblige me very much if you would let me have the little [sic] that is coming to me as I am in great Trouble my family are sick and my debts are presing me as you promised to settle with me after the sesson i hope you will send it up with Roby” [sic]

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| G 8730 | Misc | May 1878 | Receipt | R. Gerrie & Co. | City (Winnipeg) | Adams, Chas. | Account $29.45. |

Payment of Sept 1877 bill is long overdue – to Chas Adams – “To be collected by John Norquay” furniture store

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| G 8697 | A - 333 (b) | June 8, 1878 | Letter | Adams, H.C. | Pas Post | Uncle [Norquay, John] | Private & friendly. |

My dear Uncle I am glad to say that we are all quite well and I hope that you are the same Mr. Clemons is going off tomorrow to red river. One day I went to a creek and I was looking at boys swimming and all at ownce two boys commenced to throw mud at each other and all at ownce a man came running down with a paddle and gave me two blows and broke the paddle on my arm and my arm was swollen very much. Papa is going to Cumberland on the 25th of June. Baby is crolling a bout fast but She cant sit up yet and when we say where is Uncle she looks at your likeness. I had a little fox. Papa told me to go and put it out in the plain where I saw a silver fox and when we let it go we thought it wouold run of but it didend it only ran of a little pace and we turned to go home an when we wanted to go in the skiff who was this but the fox at our heels so we brought back the fox and we took him out to the plain again and we left him a way there and we came back and the next day the little fox came back and a boy took him and the dogs killed him. We all send our best love to you all I remain Yrs

affectionate nephew H C Adams

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| G 8730 | Misc | Sept. 25, 1878 | Receipt | R. Gerrie & Co. | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Account paid $72.40. |

A bill that includes Chas Adams’ purchases– the same amount as above ($29.45),

plus purchases by JN family, in June-Sept 1878, $72.40 in dress goods, boy’s linen suit, 1 tent, wincey and hose and cotton, and a muslin dress etc.

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| A - 383 | Jan. 11 and 14, 1879 | Letter | Adams, Charles | Pas Post | Neestaw [Brother-in-law - Norquay, John] | Friendly and private matters. |

"My dear Neestaw The annual winter packet will be due here tomorrow & you cant imagine how excited we are all getting at its near approach. I expect about as much as you public men do at elections, you may laugh, but it is so – What have we got to look forward to? Isolated as we are nothing is of greater moment to us than to hear from our dear friends. The last news we heard was that the MacKenzie Govt was defeated. Since then you may be all sent higher than a kite in Man[itoba].

We really have no news to write about which makes it more difficult to write a letter. Mssrs Belanger & young Stewart were down here lately & spent X'mas with us. Well we just managed X'mas but not a drop over. We are now all temperance men. I went up for New Year to Cumberland & had a pleasant time. A Miss Michaud, niece of Mr B, is with them & is a very lively person. Mr. B. has been ill since last summer, but is now getting better. Mrs. Cochran was there too & altogether she contributed considerable jollification – as we could enjoy. Mr & Mrs Hargrave are there too & are nice people also. Mr Hargrave & Mr Hanson loaded a small canoe on New Years Eve & lit a match so as to set it off at 12 O.C. which it did, but since then the canoe has been missing & tracks of it has not been seen anywhere any information thereof will be thankfully rec'd particularly as it also took away Mrs. B's henhouse which she greatly laments & would be glad to get back. [mischief, practical joke-type]

Our trade this year is not so good as last year chiefly owing to scarcity of furbearing animals & greater exertions of traders in trying to collect the same. No word of Hughes yet. Anything for a change even if it is some d—n lies of Hughes' to kill the monotony.

How are you all getting along -- how is Tom. I wish I could get a passage for him to come & see us at holidays & go back again. What does he think of farming does he seem to like that sort of thing? Is his staying with you no inconvenience? Does he please you & Betsy? Write me freely & openly – for I appreciate your kindness in keeping them so long & I would not like to presume on our friends' kindness too much.

The Fever has left the place now for some time. Annie & Baby escaped catching it & Joseph has grown very stout since his recovery. Horace is keeping good health since he came – but he is not very strong – he never was – he attends school half a day & the rest of the time amuses himself in different ways. Nancy is doing well tho' hardly so strong as she generally is when nursing. On the whole we have much to be thankful for – poor thing she is as strong as myself when tried as we have been – still at times we are both overcome & never will forget our darling.

I hope to hear that you are all well in every respect & with our mutual love to you all I remain Yr affte brother…. C Adams

Congratulate you my dear Neesta Yrs CA

PSS Got yours & Bella's letters all right. Glad to hear all's well. Love to Tom & all the rest of you. Pack leaves Pas 5 o.c. [o'clock] came at 10 pm Jan 14th 3 a.m.

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| G 8697 | A - 310 | Jan. 14, 1879 | Receipt | Norquay, John | City (Winnipeg) | Adams, George | Receipt for $180 - to be deposited at Merchants' Bank. |

JN note, as receipt, saying ‘received from George Adams, High Bluff, by the hands of John McDonald for deposit in Merchants Bank Wpg $80 in cash and $100 in cheque

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| G 8697 | A - 308 | Jan. 20, 1879 | Tax Notice | Drummond, J.A.K. Secretary Treasurer | High Bluff, Man. | Norquay, John | Asking for $6.25 taxes due on Charles Adams lot. |

1877 unpaid tax on Chas Adams for High Bluff school 1.87 plus 4.38 for 1878

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| A - 262 | May 7, 1879 | Letter | Ede, David | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Asking for payment of stone re: child Adams deceased. |

Dear Sir The head stone you ordered of me for deceased child of Charles Adams is completed. If you could let me have the money for it this week I will be much obliged as I have a large amount of money to raise.”

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| G 8697 | A - 309 | May 13, 1879 | School Tax Notice | Gerrond, Wm. Secretary Treasurer | High Bluff, Man. | Adams, Charles | Amount of school taxes $4.06. |

Assessment on Adams land $815 – taxes 4.06

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| A - 271 | May 23, 1879 | Receipt | Ede, David | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | To amount of account rendered $25.00. Paid $15.00. |

Monuments – for Chas Adams deceased child May Pd. $15 on acct 23 May 1879

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| G 8697 | A - 324 | Aug. 15, 1879 | Letter | Thomas, Adams | [No Location] | Norquay, John | Boyish letter to his uncle Mr. N. |

“My dear uncle I received your letter and was glad to get it. I am quite well and I hope you are the same and all the others, the Ducks is pretty thick up here the people is done making hay and are reaping their wheat and barley and oats. Tell John George I am killing lots of Ducks up here, uncle Joseph and I went for Dick Joes little horse he was in a mans park he was very bad to drive home he wouldent come with us so we had to drive him a part of the way

I seen a boy up here with a big belly he is only as tall as Horace I gess his belly is biger than mine he is very stumpy he is about ten or eleven years old he is a funny fellow when I go past his house he wants me to stay a while and have a chat with him one time he told me to sleep at his house he said he would give me bread and tea for to eat. And drink he said he would only charge me 25cts for sleeping there I dident want to for I was at a place where I dident half to pay for my meals.

This is the last sheat of paper I have please send me some more I am not writeing to any of my Cousins or Auntie for I have no more paper I have no more new just now. I remain, your affectionate nephew Thomas Adams

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| G 8697 | A - 333 (a) | Oct. 23, 1879 | Letter | Adams, C[harles] | The Pas, Man. | Neestaw [Brother-in-law, Norquay, John] | Private & friendly. |

Pas Oct 23 ’79 12.30 a.m.

Dear Neestaw I can only drop a line. Thanks for your kindness to our poor children. Got yours all right by Mr. Belanger. Sorry to hear of poor Elizabeth – but hope she will got on all right ere this. Glad to say we are all right and & well at this place. I fear it is too true about poor Mrs. Trivett we hear from Cumb[erlan]d per Miss Merchant [?] to Mrs. Cochran that she, Mrs. T, died in childbirth – both died – 5 days suffering – Mrs. Cowley will be sorry to hear this – should you see Archdn Cowley you may mention this

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| G 8697 | A - 291 (a) | Dec. 15, 1879 | Letter | Spence, Andrew Secretary Treasurer | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Asking for payment. |
| G 8697 | A - 291 (b) | [No Date] | Tax Notice | Spence, Andrew Secretary Treasurer | High Bluff | Adams, Charles | To amount of taxes due by Chas. Adams. |

“With reference to the enclosed Adams Act, I beg to request you to return to me with the least unnecessary delay…”

“Taxes for High Bluff school Charles Adams 1878: 6.25 1879: 4.06

Balance due $10.31

Congratulate you my dear Neesta Yrs CA

PSS Got yours & Bella's letters all right. Glad to hear all's well. Love to Tom & all the rest of you. Pack leaves Pas 5 o.c. [o'clock] came at 10 pm Jan 14th 3 a.m.

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| G 8697 | **A - 386** | **Dec. 28, 1879 Jan. 4, 1880** | **Letter** | **Adams, Charles** | **Pas Post** | **Mustaw [Brother-in-law - Norquay, John]** |

[the usual 4-page, one-fold, lined blue onionskin paper]

My dear Neestaw I am sending this by Jack Clemons' men who start on the [5th prox?]: We were glad to hear by Mr Belanger of the safe arrival of our children. I wrote them & you by messrs Russell & Smith later, but poor fellows I fear they had a very hard time of it a few days from here, having to foot it a good way.

I am glad to say we are all well here. Nancy is keeping well this winter in fact better than usual – tho' generally when nursing she looks well. Our baby is now walking about & commencing to speak tho' in Cree like Joseph – You would be amused to see Joseph with his little dog yoked in a trace & sled, it is only the size of a cat he is getting very stout. As for myself I am pretty well just now but I was bothered with a pain in my side for a long time this winter. I am pretty hard worked this year. I always had a young clerk till now except Ballendin. I have only my men. I hope the Coy will only follow up what is their Rule very often viz 'work first & pay afterwards' the reverse is the case with Indians tho'. However I am not behind in anything or any part of my charge which I can tell you is pretty heavy in its way. My returns is 2nd best since I have been here which all other posts are below. I am glad to notice too that our Boss appreciates my exertions.

I am going off to Cumberland for New Year, & will be back on the 3rd in Co [company] with Mr B who will be going as far as Grand Rapids.

By the way he found a little daughter on his arrival last fall (Oct 20) & I can assure you he was not a little proud of it as it is the only daughter they have having lost the only one a few years ago.

I shall be writing you or continue this after I come down. I fear I shall not get away next summer until about the 1st July so you need not look out for us before the middle of the month as I am wanted to start the Portage la Loche Brigades first – which will be about the 25 June.

Of course I intend to take all in [take all the family to Red River] tho' it will cost a good deal. We are very anxious for news – you may be kicked to pieces for all we know.

I want to get a little grog out by Clemons but how we shall arrange it remains to be settled between us -- I have a permit which his man will get – tho I don't care getting it for myself still I don't like drinking others' grog always I take pleasure in having a horn with others & giving to those who enjoy it.

Give our best love to Elizabeth & the children & with the same to yourself

I remain with best wishes Yr affte neestaw, C A Adams

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| G 8697 | A - 443 (a) | [No Date]  July 1880? | Letter | Begg, Alex[ander] | [City (Winnipeg) Man] | Norquay, John | Re: An amount of $73.00. | 2 pp. |

"My Dear Mr Norquay I enclose a letter from Mr McArthur about the $73.00 I spoke to Nursey and he is to see you & trace up the money. He had better go down himself to the HBCo. In the meantime Adams must have the money. If you can arrange with him to have the amount with interest from day of collection deposited to his credit in the bank to draw interest hereafter we will do this as soon as I return from the Portage. We will have to fix it somehow. I would not go only I have an appointment at Headingly at 4 o'clock. Yours truly Alex Begg

George Roy has accounts and check books but anything not sure of I told him to retain until I return which will be on Sunday. AB"

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| G 8697 | A - 443 (b) | July 29, 1880 | Letter | MacArthur, D.,  Merchants' Bank of Canada | City (Winnipeg) | Begg, A. | Re: Deposit of $73.00 not found. |  |

[To] A Begg Esq My dear Sir: In reply to your favor of yesterday I have to say that we do not find on referring to our books that the amount you mention -- $73 – was deposited at all. There is no such amount in Mr Norquay's account nor have we any deposit in the name of H.C. Adams – in fact we can find no trace of it. Yours very truly, D MacArthur

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| G 8698 | A - 511 | July 1880 | Receipt | Gerrie, R. & Co. | City (Winnipeg) | Adams, Chas. | Account $29.45. | No Cover |

Dry goods importer: 22 Sep – straw hat, buttons, lace, thread, muslin, boots, fur hat, 300 cartridge shells and 6 linen towels, hairpins = 28.05 plus interest to 1 May 1878 1.40 = $29.45

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| G 8698 | | A - 453 | Aug. 5, 1880 | Letter | Spence, Andrew [County Municipality Portage Laprairie [sic] | | | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John | Statute Labor. Mr. N. to provide for the same in the Municipality of Portage la Prairie. [as Manager of C.Adams estate]. |  |
| Statute Labor. Mr. N. to provide for the same in the Municipality of Portage la Prairie. [as Manager of C.Adams estate]. | | | | |  |

Statute Labor District No 33

"Hon John Norquay Manager of C. Adam Estate

Dear Sir You are hereby notified to be present on the Public highway at or near the farm of W.G. Alcocks on Thursday the 12th day of August with a shovel at the hour of 8 o'clock a.m. You are to furnish 2 days statute labor or commute within three days after this notice at the rate of $2.00 for each day …." Andrew Spence Overseer

[ps] Jam Tate makes the Drummond Ball tomorrow night

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| G 8697 | A - 446 | Nov. 20, 1880 | Collection Notice | Merchants' Bank  of Canada | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Stating they have a draft made by Alex Begg on Mr. N. for $47.00. |  |

Form: " We have received for collection a draft made by Alex Begg on you for $47.00, please to call and accept. To Hon John Norquay [sgd] Duncan MacArthur Manager"

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| G 8698 | A - 471 | Sept. 11, 1880 | Letter | Adams, C. | Pas Post | Neestaw [Brother-in-law, Norquay, John] | Private family matters. |  |

"Pas Post Dear Neestaw I have sent off or rather your sister has made arrangements with Mrs McDonald & Mrs Ballendin for Feathers. Think nearly 40 lbs which McDonald writes me he has sent off already to Grand Rapids to your address. Hope you will get it all right.

C Commissioner Graham was here last night - & since the 7th I have had very little sleep on account Ind Payment – (took in over $2900.00 in 2 days, private)

Two Boats Indians gone in to Man: - Can't have much – only $405.00 not got in by us here & same success elsewhere. The C.C. was very good & civil.

Looking out for the Northcote to come down every moment – River as high as ever I saw it except on my arrival & it is now rising again, the country all Lake, no hay can be made – At Edmonton 8 days ago water rose 16 ft perpdr [perpendicular] in one night – so our Mr Graham told me – In 24 days here it has raised 23 –

Yr sister's leg is worse than ever it has been – able to walk tho' – Horace well & Joseph ditto – Charles [Charlotte?] don't forget her Auntie about when she put [feel?] her hand & often speaks of it - & looking at yr photo she recognises you & says 'Charles' Uncin [Micin?]

Got your letter in reference to Horace's money – glad of it

Hargrave tells me A. Spence's property is heavily mortgaged & must be about in for $1000.00 please will you be on guard

H B Steamer will run twice up this river yet after coming down this time

Kind love to you all & hope to see you out next summer – mind –

Your aft Keestaw C A Adams

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| G 8698 | A - 772 | Aug. 9, 1881 Aug. 31, 1881 | Letter | Adams, C. | Pas Post | Neestaw [Norquay, John] | Family matters. | 2 pp. |

Pas Post August 9th 81

"Dear Neestaw I have to acknowledge the receipt of yr favours of 31st May & July 22. The latter I got on the 4th inst & the former only yesterday via Carlton. You can't believe how glad yr sister was to hear of your new Tanis [daughter?] & that poor Elizbth was getting on well. Horace too was so glad – poor Horace scarcely had his eyes opened when he went on board the steamer as it arrived at 3.30 a.m. & left at 4. I had no time to even read yrs of May 31st much less to refer to it. I noticed that you were a long time away to Ottawa. I would like you could send an a/c of the size of the new Province or rather the extended one & also –result- of census, in any paper that contains it. We are glad to notice the growth of Manitoba, apart from enlargement - its institutions &c &c - & that an old R.R. boy has a big say in it.

Horace will tell you about us all. I would like him to visit all his cousins first before he goes up particularly as there is sickness at High Bluff & I am writing to Tom to address his letters for Horace to you at Winnipeg & then only seldom, I don't fear for our children as they had the Hooping cough already, I was nearly keeping him i.e. Horace for some time yet but he was burning to get away from here to his cousins & brother.

You ask, 'What are yr chances of promotion?' all I can say is that I feared there was none as along as this administration lasts here, I mean Mr B, he knows I know too much of his extravagance & mismanagement & as usual with him in such cases tries all he can to injure such person. As you know I am always guarded & now allude to particulars in our affairs. The long & short is I gave in my resignation this spring & I suppose shall leave next June. I am thinking of going west either to P Albert or Edmonton. I know I shall have a hard pull by my doing so – as I shall not have a cent except what I shall get for my pce of Land. I have been worried & bothered for years to take this step & am doing so for peace, if possible at the same time I shall be glad if I can secure sufficient land for my children. I could get about $600.00 from the Coy & I get $120.00 from Govt, & which will be $700 at least. It will be a change to get none at all. I get $10.00 per month for dispensing medicine to Indians on Treaty #5 which is a help.

I have not seen Mr Belanger since Council, but I know him & his representations. I saw Mr. Graham but as the Str [steamer, steamboat] only landed for 5 minutes I could not have any talk with him of myself. I don't see how we can go on any visit to Manitoba in spring. We shall likely go right up from here. Tom could go across land with his uncle as far as Carlton or P.A.

What chance will there be up there for Registrar or anything like that I would not bother you if it would be risky for you, but if you could use your influence I am sure you could give us a helping hand. I hate to ask you, but shall this once, but only if it is not out of the way, to compromise yourself.

I shall be glad if you can see Horace on the cars for High Bluff & warn him of the danger of going about where the cars are going.

I am glad to say we are all well – I shall close how & add a P.S. when the Str passes down Yrs Affly C Adams

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| G 8698 | A - 772 | Aug. 9, 1881 Aug. 31, 1881 | Letter | Adams, C. | Pas Post | Neestaw [Norquay, John] |

**Pas Post Augst 31st 1881**

"Dear Neestaw I wrote you a few days ago by the Northcote regarding myself & requesting your influence to get some office – Registrar or the like in the Sasktn. Since writing as above I have been advised by a friend, whose name I am not at liberty to give, to try for Indian Agency for Ft. Alexander, Brokenhead River, Rosseau, &c. The friend referred to knows all about it & says that the acting agent for Ft. Alexander &c&c, are only employed temporarily. He thinks that there would be little difficulty in yr procuring said position – he will also likely see you & have a talk about it, he is personally known to you – is all I can say. I shall be anxious to hear from you as soon as you can on the subject of, either the substance of this, or my previous letter.

We were both glad & vexed yesterday - glad in receiving quite a lot of letters & vexed that they had been taken past by 'Str Lily' to Carlton then bro't down by 'Northcote.' In any case they were very welcome. They were from Bella, Alick, Horace from Grand Rapids, Tom, Annie & others from outsiders as well as some from my brothers. They like P.A. & are getting along well[.] Joseph had only got out shortly before – 50 days en route but all right – family 7 cattle. They have secured good ½ sec land each.

How Bella does brag up that Tanis of yrs – 'small face, small feet, small nose, small hands & goodness knows what other admirations' -- & everything is 'just like Papas' We can imagine what extravagant loving epithets are showered on the little esgnāchaRan (?) [sic] I wonder.

Well Neesta tell the truth we do rejoice with you. As for yr sister – she is as glad as if it is her own & is only anxious that Elizabeth will not take good enough care of herself. We too have a darling girl & tho' plain at first is now a fine (to us pretty) child – her hair that was dark is light now, very much like the ones' hair, that we lost.

Joe has taken in his head to go to school & has attended this 2 days Charlie is almost as small as ever but has a new name about every month.

We were disappointed in the Gov General not coming down the River great preparations were made to receive him in vain With kind regards to all

Remain yr affte Keestaw C. Adams"

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| G 8698 | A - 793 | 1881 [cover sheet says] | JNorquay in ac't with Chas Adams | Norquay, John | City (Winnipeg) |  | "J. Norquay in ac[c]t. with Chas. Adams". | 2 pp. |

2 pages, handwritten, on Provl Treasurer's stationery, and in JN's handwriting:

"J Norquay in ac't with Chas Adams

Cr to James Adams 300.00

J V Ps Adams 15.00

Overcoats for boys 7.00

Bannatyne 25.69

Wright dog harness 15.00

J A K Drummond 3 .60

Truthwaite 38.00

Sundries 7.50

Bannatyne 14.00

To Mrs. C. Adams 94.00

Tombstone 25.00

Board of children 300.00

R Gerrie & Co 28.00

872.84

2.00

To H L Reynolds [? 2.00?]

Cash to C. Adams 100.00

" " " 28.00

1002.84

Sheet 2: "John Norquay in ac't with C Adams

Dr to cash per A Spence 65.00 + 2.00 to be added for registration

To cash per G Adams 157.50

Cash 200.00

Cash per Jos Adams 44.00

Cash per C E Hodgson 99.00

Cash per HB Co 25.00

Cash per letter 11.00 $14.00

Cash per HB Co 100.00

Cash per Jas Adams 42.00

Cash per HB Co 25.00

768.50

Cash 15L 72.60

841.10

Order for $30.00 30.00

25.00

55.00 896.10

100.00

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**8731 LB C: Health**: Charles Adams (secretary) to E. McDonald, mayor, Portage la Prairie, 16 Feb 1883 – “Mr Norquay’s health is much improved & is very grateful for your kind expression…” p 57

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| G 8701 | B - 69 | July 9, 1883 | Postcard | Adams, C. | Prince Albert, NWT | Norquay, John | Arrived at Prince Albert OK and acknowledging receipt  of letter. |  |

Quick scrawl on card: “Got here on 6th All well – fine trip – will be some time before can be located – crops good – got yrs – glad to hear all is well Yrs C Adams

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| G 8700 |  | Oct. 22, 1883 | Letter | Adams, Charles | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Neestaw {Brother-in- Law - Norquay, John] | Family matters. |  |

“Dear Neestaw On the 14th inst we were very much pleased to receive a little stranger in the shape of a little son, both mother & babe doing well.

I am in a fair way of securing a splendid claim of ½ a section, it is a lovely place, my brothers are going to help me put up a little House so as to secure it more surely until spring. I am renting 30 acres new broke land from A Spence for the [finaing] of it, so that we shall be all right – Andrew’s claim comes on to mine, the boys are backsetting & have been working very hard.

Excuse us for writing irregularly as the Post Office is 15 miles away. With kind love to all, I remain, Affly Keestaw [over]

Ps I enclose a letter to Mr. Vivian re Gerrond’s note which he has. Should it not be too much, would you kindly drop a note to Mr. Howell about it you would oblige me very much Keestaw.

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| G 8701 | B - 470 | Nov. 28, 1883 | Letter | Adams, Joseph | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Uncle [Norquay, John] | Private family matter. |  |

Lindsay P. Albert Dear Uncle: I just drop you a few lines to let you now that I don’t forget you there was a wedding here on the 21 of November I have to cut hay next summer and papa has to rake hay when the boys were of[f.] papa and I had to go for hay I have some hay for say[sale] and mamma has some too. I cant be able to go to school this winter. One day papa whent to town he brought a mask soon as we saw him coming we whent and meet him and i put the mask on and I whent to mamma she wouldent look at me She just turned her Face at once. This is all the news I have just now. Joseph Adams [sic]”

**Charles Adams to Norquay, 7 March 1884, NPP C – 256**

“Dear Neestaw It is quite a while since I wrote you. When I did so last I was in [illegible – ustacirs] as to how things were going with us. Since then my claim for that land was refused & I have not been able to get any that was worth having until last week when I am told I shall get it now tho’ the terms are not yet known at the lands office. I have been all week getting logs chopd in the woods my brothers all helping me – on Monday Horace cut his foot bad so that he is lying since. Last night in making a crutch for him I cut my left hand with a knife severing the artery so that I am unable to do anything too now. Tom is alone now – off to the woods in the day & attending the cattle & cutting wood at night & morning. How we shall get on before the thaw come I can’t tell. Tis true my brothers are very obliging & helpful.

Joseph is unable to go out for the last two weeks with his old cough again at times he is very bad. All the rest are quite well. Your sister as well as baby are all right. Kati & Maria amusing each other as neighbours are not near -- doctors more so. Your sister had to sew up my hand using her needle & thimble while the blood was spouting.

My brother Joe lost his son Tom from inflammation of brain from fall off high Alex Foulds, my nephew, cut his foot & nearly bled to death, then about 6 weeks in bed but can drive or is driven out now.

Mail in on the 2nd but have not got it yet – so far – anxious to know how you got on. Everybody interested in your mission below – say what affects Manitoba affects us in N.W.T. Your actions endorsed by all out this way, Grit & Tory, with few exceptions. Last we heard you were to leave on 12 ulto to come home – telegram, a mass meeting to be held at Wpg.

Will you let me know what you charge me for Jack – further I will ask you if you are able to spare it to lend me the price of him at interest for a year or two. I am pretty hard up for funds & if you could oblige me I shall be deeply grateful, please answer soon.

Tell Alex I can’t write him this mail yet – he owes me a letter anyway. Maria says – tell ‘Auntie Norquay’ & uncle “We love him’ & Kati sends her love too. We wish to be remembered to you all. Tom, Jack[,] Pord [?] & all the rest of you

Ever yrs afftly Chas Adams

P.S. you must excuse my writing, never good, is worse with the hand in sling.”

**Charles Adams to Norquay, 21 May 1884, NPP, C – 217**

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| G 8702 | C - 217 | May 21, 1884 | ‘Private’ Letter | Adams, Chas. | “Kirkpatrick” Prince Albert | Neestaw [Brother-in-Law, Norquay, John] | Friendly letter on family matters. Dealt with by Mr. N. |  |

“Dear Neestaw I recd your letter of 2nd inst by last mail & we were glad to hear you were all well. I have to go down to P.A. today as Maria was taken pretty bad last night with croup & as it may return again tonight we must have medicine ready for it. I can only write a short letter this time. All the children are well, baby has 5 teeth, doing fairly can rattle out ‘Papa, papa.’ Well, we hope to be in our house next week. Our claim – I was to get an answer from land board in 3 weeks – tis now over 3 months since I got a re-hearing of case for it, N.W. & S.W ¼ of 32, 46, 26 W 2nd, South ¼ for homestead N ¼ for pre-emption they offered me 80 acres of NW ¼ each for homestead & pre-emption, I would not settle on it if got only that in a present [?] – very much broken – only if get it as I want it will take it, fellow that held it before went to Ontario – never returned – I have lived on claim since Ap 2nd in tent, wish you could see Walsh or Pierce of land board as I am about breaking – too bad if not allowed it.

Glad to hear of Delegation’s success this time, the whole North-West interested in what you are doing & delighted

French & Eng halfbreeds joined in grievances sent delegates to Riel in Montana Jas Isbister championing Eng. side – left – 19th. Riel to be invited in.

All join in love & best wishes to you all – in haste as I have a long journey to make today. Yours ever, Keestaw

P.S. very sorry about poor T. be as merciful as you can possibly be – Sister feels it very much. Yrs. CA

“Action: Dealt with by Mr. Norquay personally”

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| G 8702 | C - 375 | Nov. 8, 1884 | Letter | Adams, Horace C. | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Uncle [J Norquay] | Family matters. Dealt with by Mr. N. |

“My dear Uncle I received your kind and welcome letter of Oct 22nd & was sorry to learn from it that Auntie is not very well but I hope she will be better soon. Mamma and all the rest are quite well but I am still unable to work I was again down to the Doctor & he says I just went down in time for him to prevent consumption & he said for me never to neglect a cold and if I would that would be the last of me. Tom is busy putting up a sheep house & papa is minding a cutter for Andrew Spence. We did not get our crop threshed yet but I expect we will be getting the mill about a week or so from now. Andrew Spence took seven first prizes at the show which amounted to $49.00 & Uncle Robie took seven too but only amounted to $17.50. Tom bought a new horse and he is a regular flier. Papa is teaching singing down at the South Branch every Friday night at half past six.

Baby is running about smart and just trying hard to speak he is already master of a few words & names he can say papa & mamma & Rita & Joe, Tom & Hoyis & Dido & this & me. The rabbits are very plentiful out here this year papa was out hunting one day for about 4 hours and he killed 21 rabbits & 7 partridges.

Kiss Auntie for me & tell Pood [?Pard?]to be sure and write. And with love to yourself, I remain your loving nephew Horace C. Adams

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| G 8703 | C - 417 | n.d. 1884 | Letter | Adams, J.H. | Deer Hill,  Prince Albert P.O N.W.T. | Uncle [Norquay, John] | Family matters. |

“Dear Uncle I received your letter Mamma is off to Uncle Robert’s today. Horace is off too to St. Andrews Church its only Ann and Kate and Maria and myself I was raking hay yesterday I sold my colt to Horace for Pressey I have to get her. When she is twelve years old because I want to get a team of horses from her Tom is off to the Stoney Creek making hay out there for Mister Beatty he will be back next week.

He has to come home on foot and carry his blanket and his blanket. I have no more news Mama send her love to you and all Yours truly nephew J.H. Adams

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| G 8703 | C - 694 | Dec. 18, 1884 | Letter | Adams, Horace | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | "Uncle" [Norquay, John] | Family matters. Replied 9 February 1885. See L.B. "D" p195. |

“My dear Uncle I suppose you are tired waiting for an answer to your last letter which I only received a few days ago as I was away from home when it came and after I came home I had no opportunity of answering it till now. I am very happy to hear Auntie is getting so strong. I hope she keep on getting stronger all the time. I heard she was going to set Rabbit snares which I hope she will & give you a good meal of them which I am sure she will be able to do if they are as plentiful down there as they are out here.

A young man down at the south branch got his hand torn to pieces by a threshing mill & could not get it cut off till two days after. Mamma & all the rest are quite well so with best love to you and Auntie I remain, Your loving nephew H Adams

P.S. Maria is sending you a letter of her own inside of mine which I will have to translate”

“The contents of Maria’s letter is as follows: Dear Uncle Baby is a bad boy he climbs on the boxes & on the chairs & on the table. And I sending lots of kisses to you & to Auntie & to Bella & to all [---?] cousins. Me not nagadooun [nasadoonoo] now cause me got a spark & him gives me money I am your little Maria”

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| G 8703 | C - 675 | Dec. 31, 1884 | Letter | Adams, Charles | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Neestaw [Norquay, John] | Family matters. No action. |

“Dear Neestaw I am not sure that you may be at home when this reaches Wpg but I shall write it all the same.

I am not going to write you as usual, but on a very important affair to us. I had prided myself that our crops tho’ very poor, still I tho’t we would be able to rub along, but on fanning I find that it was so light & without substance that it mostly blew away with the chaff & now find ourselves with 27 bus for seed & 26 for bread. Under these circumstances I would ask you to try & make me a loan of say $150 or $200. I may not be able to pay it back in one year but may in two. I don’t ask otherwise than as a loan – here I could get one at 18 per ct but I can’t pay that.

We will have to go to Troy too as almost everybody is going this winter for flour. It is quite an Egyptian famine, or another Grasshopper year. We are trying to find out the state of the country in view of asking aid from Govt for seed for next spring.

We are in pretty good health, Horace is not getting worse, Joe is beginning to go out now, all the rest quite well, Horace won’t do anything this winter per doctor’s advice.

We have had very cold weather as cold as I have experienced with scarcely an exception. I hope in Red River you have a pleasanter season than is experienced out here this year but I trust all will run[?] through yet.

Kind regards to you all at home & with the compliments of the season, I am, dear Neestaw, yours ever, Chas Adams”

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| G 8703 | C - 689(b) | Jan. 2, 1885 | Letter | Adams, J.H. | Red Deer Hill Prince Albert | "Auntie" [Norquay, Mrs. J.] | Family matters. |

Same envelope presumably (but addressed to Mrs. J. Norquay Parkdale): “My dear Auntie I am glad to say that we are all well at present. Mister J.F. Pritchard is going to get ordained next Tuesday sixth of January. Our neighbour over here is going to rent his farm and one cow and 19 hens and some pigs and his House too that is Alex McKay. I heard there was to be a Dance to night at St. Andrews and there is a meeting too. There was a Dance last night up at Uncle Jonny’s and another one at Jonny told us there is to be one yet next week at Albert Hudgeons [?] on Wednesday I think. The people that went to Troy came home with frozen cheeks and frozen faces I wish you all a merry Christmas and Happy New Year I remain Your loving nephew Jos. H. Adams

PS Mamma sends her love to you and all. J.H. Adams

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| G 8703 | C - 689(a) | Jan.16, 1885 | Letter | Adams, J.H. | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | "Uncle" [Norquay, John] | Family matters. No action. |

‘My Dear Uncle I received your letter of the 27th of Dec. last night. There is to be a grand supper at Charley G. Birds And a ball after it to night I think there is to be some people going to come from Prince Albert and there is some people is going to the ball from 5 or 6 miles from here. Papa and mamma and Horace and Tom and Kate are off too We are at home just now. Ann and Maria and Conrad Ernest And myself are home.

There was a meeting at Prince Albert yesterday at 3 o’clock in the evening there is to be another one on Wednesday 21first papa has to be down there again. I hope you will try to come out here some time next summer. I haven’t any more news just now and these few remarks…. I remain your loving nephew, Joseph H. Adams

PS Mamma sends her love to you and so do I”

**Norquay to Charles Adams Red Deer Prince Albert NWT 9 February 1885, NPP, Letterbook D, D196**

My dear Charlie I received yours of the 21st [Cooke: “should be 31st”] on my arrival home from Ottawa and noted its contents. I regret very much that your crop was so disappointing. I shall try to make arrangements to give you the loan you request but may not be able to do so, as I am very heavily embarrassed myself, having been foolish enough to place my name on the back of other peoples paper for which I have to pay dearly. I am glad to hear that you are all well and hope you will pull through the winter all right. I am your affectionate brother-in-law….”

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| G 8704 | C - 763 | Feb. 14, 1885 | Letter | Adams, Joseph H. | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | "Uncle" [Norquay, John] | Family matters. |

“Red Deer Hill My Dear Uncle I am sure that you was waiting for a letter from me all this while back. Horace had to kill his mare on Thursday morning nocked [sic] her on the head with the ax she was just only breathing that was all. The lines got about her leg and I suppose when she would hit against old Jessie the old mare would kick her. Her head was all brocken she could not drink or eat her legs was all bluddy she was just weak she could not stand I suppose it was when she tried to get her life back her eyes was brockled [?] she could not see they were all red They strung her up she was just crazy when they had her strung up Joseph House and Mr. John McKay and Edwin Spence and papa and Horace had to string her up. It was a fine little mare. She lived a day and a night. Papa was off for wood that morning when Horace killed her papa was going to kill her but he did not have the heart to kill her. He left word for me to kill her but I did not have the heart to kill her so Horace took the ax and nocked her on the head. It is nothing but Ball this winter now. There was one surprize party here and another surprize party at Joseph House on Thursday there is to be a ball at Jim Brown’s too some of these days There was a Ball last night at the St. Andrews School and singing and reading too. Our hens are laying now some times we get 7 eggs and 6 & 8 & 6 & 4 &5 a day. The Boys were out cutting rails. Tom and John James S[wain?] were out Horace went out for them today. Papa and I went for hay today Please Uncle send me out some stamps because I cannot write to you if I don’t send [?...?]some from you. Papa is always growling about the stamps when ever I write to you and any of you people. Mr. Jackson and another fellow came here today. I am happy to say that we are all quite well at present. I must close with love to you and all, I remain your loving nephew Joseph H. Adams

Mama sends her love to you.

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| G 8703 |  | C - 648 | March 3, 1885 | Letter | Adams, Horace C. | Red Deer Hill Prince Albert | "Dear Uncle" [Norquay, John] | Private family matters. |

“My dear uncle I am happy to say I received your letter today. Papa & all the men around are off to a big ‘Riel’ meeting at the South Branch. The french had a big meeting again last week & there was four hundred men present. There was a talk that Riel was going to be arrested so there were (61) sixty one armed men guarding Riel for a while so he is not arrested yet, & I think it is not likely he will be arrested at all. Tom is still hard at work, cutting rails. We have two thousand rails hauled already & we require one thousand more. Momma & all the rest are quite well. I am getting much better two. I am getting fat on cod liver oil. I weigh one hundred & fifty six (156) pounds. I am eleven pounds heavier than Sam Leask. Sam was up here yesterday he has a nice team. One of them a two hundred dollar horse nearly died this winter. Sam says he had all the resignation papers ready but he would not sign them (that is the horse). My mare died last month. She broke her halter line & got entangled with it & old Jessie had her all kicked to pieces. She had her head split open & her body was all cut up. We are having nice warm weather now & half of the snow is gone & the roads are getting bad. Remember me to the boys, and with best love to you & Auntie I remain, your loving nephew, Horace C. Adams

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| G 8703 | C - 604 | April 4, 1885 | Letter | George  [Geordie Adams?] | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Friendly note. Congratulations of Terms, etc. |

“[sic] Portage la Prairie: Der John I am trying to scrible a few lines to let know that we are only in midling helth at present. I am geting over a bad cold Mary has not been this while past she fels bad since hearing the news from Batleford.

Hoping these few lines will find you all in good helth We did not get a word from West latly. If you got any word from Charley [Adams?] we would like to hear We herd that Andrew Spence Robi and some of the Pachas [Pocha?] are with Riel

You must be very busy at present In reading the papers last week I felt proud to see that there is another native coming to the front

I congratulat McBeth and I congratulat your Government in having so promising a young man

Thomas Sinclair asked me to write to you and ask you if you could help him as he is in a bad possision The mortgage on his place will be closed if he don’t pay the int and also the mortgage on all his stock

The int now required would amt to about $200

Wishing you all well Yours ever faithful Geodie [?]

I hop you will be able to come and visit when you get throu the sesson I would like you would spend an evening with us”

**Charles Adams to Norquay, 15 April 1885, NPP, C – 790.**

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| G 8704 | C - 790 | April 15, 1885 | Letter | Adams, Chas. ‘Keestaw’ | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | "Neestaw" [Norquay, John] | Family Matters. |

“My dear Neestaw I suppose you are all interested in the state of affairs out this way, certainly it is a sad state, however we are all safe so far. You were not far wrong in your opinion of that beggar Riel he nearly getting the Eng hf brds in trouble but their loyalty was too strong for his taste & did not go to extremes. The moment he took up arms all with very few exceptions took arms against him….

“…but how far can Indians be trusted when let loose you know as I do….”

Horace Adams to Norquay, 28 March [this is more likely, given the context, to be 28 April] 1885, NPP, C - 797

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| G 8704 | C - 797 | March 28, 1885 | Letter | Adams, Horace | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Norquay, John | Family matters. Replied 8 May. See L.B. "D" p246. |

“My dear uncles, aunties & cousins I now once more write you a few lines ‘perhaps it might be the last time’ to tell you that we are in a very dangerous position we all have to go and take up arms tomorrow and fight for the Crown there is no knowing how many of us there is that will live to see the end of this Rebellion. But we will pray that God will do what serveth him good and I hope & pray that he will make us victorious in this battle. The Rebels are coming nearer & it is likely we will have to go to war in a few days….

“I am rather excited just now, but will try & keep cool. H.C.A.”

[Inserted here: 3 letters re Geordie Adams]:

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| G 8703 | C - 604 | April 4, 1885 | Letter | George[Geordie] [Adams] | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Friendly note. Congratulations of Terms, etc. |

“Portage la Prairie: Der John I am trying to scrible a few lines to let know that we are only in midling helth at present. I am geting over a bad cold Mary has not been this while past she fels bad since hearing the news from Batleford.

Hoping these few lines will find you all in good helth We did not get a word from West latly. If you got any word from Charley [Adams?] we would like to hear We herd that Andrew Spence Robi and some of the Pochas are with Riel

You must be very busy at present In reading the papers last week I felt proud to see that there is another native coming to the front

I congratulat McBeth and I congratulat your Government in having so promising a young man

Thomas Sinclair asked me to write to you and ask you if you could help him as he is in a bad possision The mortgage on his place will be closed if he don’t pay the int and also the mortgage on all his stock

The int now required would amt to about $200

Wishing you all well Yours ever faithful Geordie

Geordie Adams (or McLeod?) was worried about Tom Sinclair’s mortgage:

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| G 8724 | C - 1373 | Feb. 27, 1886 | Letter | Geordie | Portage la Prairie | Norquay, John | Re: Going to land office & getting description of Adelaide Hudson's Land. |

“Dear John I wish you would go to the land office and get a discreption [sic] of the land claim or grant of Adlaid[sic] Hudson Portage la Prairie They will have the field notes in the office by so doing you will oblige Ketutami Geordie

“Our friend Tom Sinclair is fairly destitute there is a subscription list [g]oing round it hasent come to me yet, I hear the $2 to 5 is on the list, the subscription is to buy a yoke of oxen for his wife.” [probably Geordie MacLeod] [Ovide Mercredi says Ketutami is “your friend” : email to gf, 9 Nov 2013]]

I hop you will be able to come and visit when you get throu the sesson I would like you would spend an evening with us”

**JN to George Adams, High Bluff 6 April 1885 [E344]** “Dear Geordie: I am in receipt of yours of the 4th inst. I am sorry to say that I have heard no word from Prince Albert since the trouble commenced. If I get any word I shall write and let you know the news. Believe me, yours truly J Norquay”

[Parenthesis ends]

**Norquay to Horace Adams (Red Deer Hill) 8 May 1885, NPP, Letterbook D, D246**

“My dear Horace I received your letter dated the 28th ult giving me an account of the awkward situation in which you are placed. I hope that you may be able to get out of this trouble without any harm. Tom and Alick are off with the troops and you can imagine my anxiety for their safety. I hope this unfortunate rebellion will soon come to an end. Your affectionate Uncle, J Norquay”

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| G 8704 | C - 1024 | June 30, 1885 | Letter | Adams, Chas. | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | "Neestaw" Norquay, John | Private family matters. |

“Dear Neestaw It is quite a while since I recd your favor & I must plead guilty in not answering it sooner. As you hoped Riel has been taken, the rebellion squashed, as far as the French are concerned & I hope as far also as the Indians are also [sic]; probably you get news just as quickly & as much as we do now, that is from the front where Middleton is. Perhaps many people hardly comprehend the distance marched over by the noble troops under Middleton & Smith – or Strange – miles are to be counted not by tens but by hundreds, even since leaving P. Albert. It would have done your heart good to have seen the troops march in to P.A. dusty … [illegible] & in many instances ragged but they were heroes & though dusty they were a find sight – so hearty was their step though marched 17 miles without any refreshment & only little hault [sic] since morning. I suppose you read J.C. McKenzie’s interview of the reporters in Wpg, it gives one all that transpired then, even up to Col Irvine’s apology for his men &c &c. The police are getting their deserving in all that is said about them & even all is not told, tho of course there are good men among them & had they been under a Middleton they might have been heroes too – why not? I enclose a clip from the Montreal Witness which is very good – only they don’t have in it the Gen/l’s reply re his little devils, which he was so justly proud of.

We came home on the 26th May & we have had Alex out 3 times in all once he spent the night, poor boy he is getting homesick now & likely he is now on his way home, I have not been down since the 26th & they were expecting orders every minute. Tom & Horace are both away, the former to the front in steamer, & Horace to Troy for freight, he could not do any hard work so I had to stay at home & he had to risk it I heard of him once & he was all right I trust he will be back in a week or 10 days.

Last year the rain did not come until like tonight & only after that the grain started – this year is scarcely better the grain did start but we have had no rain since & it is burning up I fear there will be no crop again of the little people put in this spring. We put in 5 acres wheat & 5 sacks potatoes, but I am having poor hopes for the former – The authorities would not let people go to put in the little seed they had, guaranteeing that they would not see the farms in want – that is the last of it – Their behavior has all been deceit -- & rascality all through. In my opinion the principals in the Rebellion are those who were first shouting, & who shouted the loudest – ‘God save the Queen’! & wish to make outsiders believe they were the only truly loyal ones.

Re the exploits of the poor troops are a little magnified the further east you are, all right re Middleton except number enemy killed in[?] Manitoba is correct – Otter’s Cut Knife affair was a great mistake precipitating Ind. war, & it was a defeat --: attacking Indians on reserve!

In speaking of the poor troops I don’t mean it in a deprecatory sense rather the contrary I should say brave – but – I know the road they travelled & the hardship they came through & I sympathize with them in it all & for that reason I said so.

Our Joe is not very well again today but hope he will not be so bad this time. The heat is so great, even for any one well, the ground is quite hot & today there is no working outdoors – wells are drying & ground is cracking & though doors & windows open the heat is coming in, in gusts as from a furnace – can’t wear any clothes except one shirt & pants no drawers or anything else.

You speak of us leaving this blasted place! All very true but where could we go to? Do you know any place? Many come to something of same idea also, I fear this is not a farming country at all, too far north –

The children are all well – Alic will tell you about the little chicken catcher Yr sister is well though worked harder than ever before – have not heard from Bella for a very long time – kind regards to all Yrs sincerely Keestaw, C.A.”

PS: Have you forgotten about Mrs. Spence’s portrait of her deceased boy – do try & send it back please Yrs&c, CA

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| G 8704 | C - 1004(a) | Sept. 7, 1885 | Letter | Adams, Chas. | Qu'Appelle Station, N.W.T. | Norquay, John | Friendly, family matters. Dealt with by Mr. N. |

Letterhead Leland House: “Dear Neestaw You will see that I am here far away from my family, I left Prince Albert on the 2nd inst. & am en route for Regina, witness for Crown in case Queen v Scott – we start up by Wright’s train.

I am sorry to say that I left Tom very ill at home threatened with, I fear, inflammation similar to what Horace had, but hope I may be wrong – all the rest were well.

Horace has a berth with Stewart Bros, P Albert Merchants -- & is likely to do well.

Kind regards to all at home & with love am ever yours Keestaw Chas Adams

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| G 8704 | C - 1004(b) | Sept. 11, 1885 | Telegram | Adams, Chas. | Qu'Appelle Station, N.W.T. | Norquay, John | Friendly, family matters. |

“Start home this afternoon Glad to hear it all well”

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| G 8705 | C - 1177 | Sept. 27, 1885 | Letter | Adams, J.H. | Prince Albert, Red Deer Hill | Uncle [Norquay, John] | Private family matters. |

“My Dear Uncle, I am sure you thought that I had forgotten you It is quite a while I wrote to you last. We had a fine time here on the 17 of Aug we kept up mammas and Papa china wedding 20 years married the men and women started to Dance in the evening and they danced until morning there were over a 100 men and women a children Mr. Pritchard was here too and Mr. and Mrs. Oram and Willie Bear oh, I could not count them all. My colt got I suppose It was a month ago it is all right now. One of the ones got cut off with the mover Horace is working down a Mr. Stewart he gets $25.00 a month

I guess it is time to quit. I remain your loving nephew J.H. Adams

P.S. tell Auntie I cannot write to her yet until I get some note paper. I hope you will excuse me. I had no other paper. J.H.A.

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| G 8705 | C - 1241(a) | Oct. 27, 1885 | Letter | Adams, Charles | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Neestaw | Re: Family matters. |

“Red Deer Hill Prince Albert Dear Neestaw

I recd your welcome letter the other day & I need not say how glad to hear of you all when you wrote – you must have had a very anxious time with poor sister of course we were in perfect ignorance of her illness & knew nothing until you & Bella wrote. We really sympathise with you in the unfortunate result. [Betsy]

We too are far from being anxious our case is poor Horace who has been very poorly all fall … I fear his lungs are pretty badly affected…

Tom has lately retd from Troy where he went for “come for food for our household” [?sic] he is well & so are all the rest of us – our baby is over his 2 yrs & is a very big boy & as things look he has a chance of being still bigger before he gets his nose broken.

“We had as you know a visit from the ‘Spoon feeder’ – he made himself very gracious – should he accomplish one quarter of what was asked of him (which by the way is nothing less than the rebel wants) he will be thanked, but should he evade what he apparently approved of he had better not pass into P.A. next year as he thinks he may do. Hoping you are all well & with our united best wishes & love I remain, Affectionately Keestaw Chas Adams

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| G 8705 | C - 1241(b) | Nov. 17, 1885 | Letter | Adams, Jos. H. | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Uncle [Norquay, John] | Re: Family matters. |

My Dear Uncle I am sure you thought that I was going to forget you We are having very bad weather just now. It is bad for buggeys and bad for cutters. There is good skating now the ice is 3 inces [sic] thick papa just got through making two tables one for us and one for Charles Bird, and I think that he has to make another one for Alex McKays. He is going to make 5 cutters too this winter. Tom will be going to Troy this winter. Papa is going to get cut logs this winter for a work shed. I have not much news just now, I remain, your loving nephew, Jos. H Adam [bungee]

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| G 8724 | C - 1472 | Dec. 2 & Dec. 21, 1885 | Letters | Adams, James | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Uncle [Norquay, John] | Family matters. |

2 Dec: “My dear Uncle I suppose you have give up hopes of ever receiving a letter from me again but however this will surprise you. The Indians are again gathering & another uprising is expected before very long. The citizens of Prince Albert are rather excited One Indian Instructor left his station to come & tell the Police that Indians on his reserve got a letter from some Indians & Battleford saying that if they would not join them they would have to fight against them. All the Sioux Indians from here have gone up to Carlton. Mamma and all the rest of the folks at home are quite well. Business is rather dull this while back everything quiet with exception of the Indians Give my very best love to Auntie So with love & best wishes to you & hoping to hear from you soon I remain Your loving Nephew S Adams

PS Do you care about buying any Halfbreed grants if so what will you give

Will write before Xmas again”

**Red Deer Hill 21 Dec 1885** [this is a different, less mature penmanship]

“My Dear Uncle What is up with Bella that we never hear anything from her – Papa is going in to cutter making now this winter he made one cutter for us and one for sale and he made one jumper [?] for Henry Ward he is going to dig a well for us. He is making another jumper for us Papa is going to make 3 more cutters he will sell them for $52.00 dollars to the people out here but to the people he will sell three for $60.00 dollars.

I wish that Andrew was out here. I have to clean out the Bire [byre] now and water 6 cows and two oxen and 3 teams of horses pretty near every day we are got 3 teams of horses and 2 colts, a spring colt and 1 year old colt that will be 2 yrs old in the spring. Annie and I and Kate will be going to school after New Year. I wish you all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I guess I must close with love to you and all, I remain, Your loving nephew Jos. Heywood Adams

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| G 8724 | C - 1415 | Feb. 22, 1886 | Telegram | Adams, Charles | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Norquay, John | In Cree. |

“Ke nanaskomitinan mistapeneya mena keseem” Chas Adams

[I am grateful for and I really miss [I’m waiting big time for] your sister ]

[translation: Ovide Mercredi 9 November 2013]

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| G 8724 | C - 1619 | Feb. 22, 1886 | Letter | Adams, Chas. | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Neestaw | Re: His appointment. |

“Dear Neestaw I rec/d your very welcome letter by last mail & have to thank you very much for its contents.

“Since your letter cam I have rec/d the appointment & am being initiated into the business today & am determined to try my best.

“I am glad to say that we are all well & I am sure it would have done your heart good to have seen your little sister when the apt was bro/t – 11:30 p.m. Saturday night. It caused her to have no more sleep that night. I can assure you that she has had enough of farming life. Though to do her justice she never complained in the least.

“I shall write you shortly again as I have to leave on my very first tour at once.

From your Keestaw, Chas Adams”

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| G 8724 | C - 1356 | March 8, 1886 | Letter | Adams, Charles | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Neestaw [Norquay, John] | Friendly letter. |

“Dear Neestaw I am just back again from another visit, being on the run all the time except to catch the mail, I have not seen my family for 8 days except Homer who is in town; I am glad to say he is improving well in health, and at present is confined to the store all the time. Mr. Stewart is off to Montreal & has left him in sole charge so that he has not been home for some weeks already & it will be some time yet till he can get home.

I heard that they are all well at home. Tom is off to Troy for 2 loads of seed grain -- & we hope to be able to put in a fair crop.

R. Pritchard that used to be with Boyd is the Clerk in our office but he wants to leave in a month or two, I wish you could think of him (not as Ind Agent) in some way or other, he only get $60.00 per month.

I hope you are all well at home & with kind regards to you all, I remain Yrs ever, Chas Adams”

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| G 8724 | C - 1645 | March 21, 1886 | Letter | Adams, J. Heywood | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Uncle [Norquay, John] | Re: Family matters. |

“My dear Uncle I am sure that you thought that I was going to forget you but I just drop you a few lines to let you know that I don’t forget you yet. I hope that you will excuse me for this time I am quite mad of my self for not writing to you sooner I was off hunting on Saturday. I went off with the gun I was to hunt rabbits but I saw no rabbits so I saw some prairie chickens so I fired at them just for fun not thinking that I would not kill any at all and I was a good peace [sic] from them I killed one We are very bad luck for dogs Papa killed diedo and the other one is dead too and I will have to shoot the other one tomorrow morning before I go to school it has the distemper I gave it a spoonful of coal oil today it seems to do it no good.

Tom went to Troy he took off 4 horses, we are very short of hay this year we have to buy hay too we can’t get any hay at all Tom is off to try and get some hay. He thought that he would go off again for another trip off to another place but if he can’t get any he will have to let go the horses to feed out. Tom’s ewe lammed [lambed] today it is a fine white big lam it is a ewe lam We have a heifer [sic] – gathering it is not ours but it is some ones else we can’t find out the oner [owner] so if no one comes for her it will be ours. I think it is time to end my letter. I must close with love to you and all

I remain yours truly Joseph Heywood Adams

PS mamma sends her love to you and all

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| G 8725 | C - 1882 | Aug. 31, 1886 | Letter | Adams, Chas. | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Neestaw | Re: Loss of his situation in month's time. |

“Dear Neestaw I have just received a letter from Regina which has upset my calculations for the present. The fact of the matter is I have been notified that I shall have to give place to my successor in a month.

“This I owe to vindictive & jealous persons, also to the Asst Commissioner, Hayter Reed, who I know was prejudiced against me, and also because my appointment did not originate at Regina. Of all damnable villains is Rev. J. Hines who was fishing for the place & who as acted very dastardly all through, he thinking he ought to have had the agency & I the farming instructorship.

“I hope you are all well, I am glad to say we are, only yr poor old sister is very clumsy whether from old age or what I will leave you to infer. Yrs always, C Adams”

**JN to JAMacdonald 1 Sept 1886 [LB5-1]** “Have just learnt that Adams of Prince Albert to be replaced & that Indians and people well satisfied with him is at [it?] dismissal?” [Cooke adds: “Norquay’s writing, badly faded”] [probably telegram draft]

**JN to Chas Adams Prince Albert, 4 Sept 1886 [LB5-11-14]** “My dear Charlie I wired Sir John on receipt of your telegram & this morning got the enclosed telegram from him. ‘Adams not fit for post will be employed elsewhere.’ I cannot understand how you could not fill the bill probably as usual your post is wanted for some friend however if you get as good I would not say a word if I were in your place especially if there is less work and as much pay as in the one you mention and not so subject to so many jealousies & designs as your present post is. Have you had any trouble with any of the agents. Possible there may be a plot on the part of some to get you removed while …[words faded].

“We are all well at home. Yours sincerely, J. Norquay”

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| G 8725 | C - 1877 | Oct. 12, 1886 | Letter | Adams, Chas. | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Neestaw | Re: Schemes afloat to rob him of position. |

“Private Dear Neestaw I have not been able to answer your letter as I was away making the pay/ts on the reserves.

Since I wrote you things have been working to a head and now I am winding up affairs. Since I commenced here last spring the authorities at Regina have tried all they could to find something to get a hold of me but so far they have failed. It was at one time a shortage in bacon which was short about 300 lbs in several thousand, now all know that is very little shrinkage for such an article, since then it turned out that Edmonton’s shortage is 2300 lbs in 2 years. Then when one failed they tried another & failed again &c &c &c. It was plain they wanted to get back Rae (nephew of Sir John) into his old place. He is the one that was suspended once & when reported to Sir John A., & pressed for answer wired back ‘Make the beggar sign the pledge.’ It seems to be a political misfortune to have gotten the place & then loose it – first the pay was only 75.00 & the travelling allowance 2.00, but the expenses were great & instead of gaining I have got in debt.

“The Indians one & all are very displeased at the changes & at one payment asked Rae to enquire of the Commr what was his intention, ‘did he want to send a ‘Yellow Beard to again swear at us?’

“I would not in the face of all that have been done like to hold the position, as they would make it unbearable to me, in fact they have laid it on pretty thick as it is – but if there was anything that would help in any way I can assure you I would be only too thankful to you. I shall be winding up & hand down things next week about 23rd.

“I should like to have got home between now & then as I expect something of importance to occur in the meantime.

“All were well when I left home yesterday. Kind regards to all – Ever yours, &c &c, Chas Adams”

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| G 8727 | C - 2318 | Nov. 9, 1886 | Letter | Adams, Joseph H. | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Uncle [Norquay, John] | Family letter. |

“My Dear Uncle I just drop you a few lines to let you know that I do not forget you yet. Tom is not well just now, he is been at Troy. Mamma is not quite well yet. I have another little sister now again. Conrad likes it very much, he slepps with papa. Some times he slepps with me. I have not much news to tell you. Papa & I were working at the cow Bire today fixing up the stalls. I guess we will do the same tomorrow again. We have another Bire to fix up yet. The wolves are very thick this year. They are killing sheep every day nearly for our neighbours. They killed some for Andrew Spence. And they were amongst ours too, ours went other side Andrew’s & that was the way they went amongst ours. Edwin Spence saw him & he jumped on his horse and chased him off he drove him through our field. We never saw him coming but Andrew told us. They had one of Andrew’s down and the others were looking at him.

They would not run away from him. Mamma was wishing for papa to kill a pig but papa would not, so he was to stingey & one of our best ewes we had got tossed so bad so we had to kill her. If papa had killed a pig she would not of got tossed perhaps, so it seems it is a sin to not let any one have what they [illegible]. I remain with love to you all, Dear Uncle Joseph H. Adams”

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| G 8728 | C - 2595 | March 15, 1887 | Letter | Adams, [S?] | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | "Uncle" [Norquay, John] | Private. |

“My dear Uncle I suppose you take a pretty good interest in the state of affairs out here at the present time. We are having a pretty exciting time over the elections the state of the Polls that have been heard from are as follows: Prince Albert 115 majority for McDowall Lindsay 6 majority for McDowall Lower Flatt 6 majority for McDowall Halcrow Settlement four (4) majority for Laird Laird had 72 majority at Batoche at noon McDowall l60 majority at 1 o’clock The other polling divisions have not yet been heard from. Papa is away down at The Pas &c & I believe he is doing good work. Andrew Spence is one of our best Conservatives he stuck to us like a leech. Mr. J Stewart ‘My Boss’ is one of the strongest Grits in town. They are beginning to get a little shaky they (Grits) sometimes admit that they are going to be defeated by a small majority all depends upon the French settlement & the Northern Posts.

I was out home on Friday last & found Mamma & all the rest of the family quite well Josie is the man of the house just now as Tom is away down to Troy. Joe is a big boy now & able to do the work around the house attending to the cattle & getting wood & water &c &c He is quite delighted with himself he comes in to town as big as life attending to business he is the one that sells all the eggs butter &c but the other day he came down & got nothing but trade & could not get what he wanted [booze?] so he just went to some other store & got it charged to Papa’s a/c it was not such a small item either but I am sure he won’t do it again. So not trusting that you are all quite well again I remain, with much love to Auntie & yourself, Your affectionate nephew S? [Joseph?] Adams

Please write if you can find time”

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| G 8728 | C - 2596 | March 15, 1887 | Letter | Adams, Ann | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | "Brother" [Norquay, John] | Family matters. |

“my dear brother I received your ever kind & welcome letter by last mail and am very sorry to hear of Bella & Nellie’s illness but I sincerely hope they will soon recover. I am sure it must be very hard for my poor sister, she being not strong herself & I know it is hard for a mother to leave the bedside of one of her loved ones. I will see that Josie continues writing to you I will explain to him that it is impossible for you to be able to answer all his letters I don’t think he will be discouraged. I think Mr. McDowall will have a hansome [sic] majority this is the eve of election & the results are I think very favourable for him (McD) although I am afraid it will be a very close election as the French men that has just arrived from Quebec are doing great work for Laird. Charlie has been away for sometime but will be back on the 24th inst if all’s well Please write soon again as I am anxious to hear how Bella & Nellie are getting along. We are all quite well at present. I trust you are all the same by this time so now with much love to you & sister one & all & trusting to hear from you soon again I remain, Your own sister Ann Adams”

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| G 8728 | C - 2617 | March 29, 1887 | Letter | Adams, [S?] | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | "Uncle" [Norquay, John] | Re: Elections in N.W.T. |

“My dear Uncle Papa has arrived from Cumberland with one of a majority for McDowall, we were all disappointed when they only got five votes in all three for McD & two for Laird there are 270 voters down there in all but somehow or other they did not vote perhaps it is as well they might have voted for Laird. Mamma & all the rest are quite well. She was in town for two or three days the first time for a year. Prince Albert is quite lively just now parties almost every night there is one down at Hon. L Clark’s tonight[.] Tom has just arrived from Troy. The South Branch is already broken up in places. Geese were seen & swans were seen on the 17th inst What do you think of that? Give my love to Auntie & the girls & with best wishes to yourself, I remain your loving nephew, S Adams

**Chapter 6 The Letters of the Setter Family**

**John James Setter**

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| A - 187 | April 1, 1875 | Letter | Setter, John J.[not the Parks Creek JohnSetter] | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John - Neestaw [Brother-in-Law] | **Congratulating Mr. N. upon having secured a seat in the Cabinet and other matters of private interest.** |

“My Dear Neestaw

I am so glad that you have again succeeded to a seat in the Ministry. I hope that you may have a blessing with it, you at least have settled friend Hay. I am sorry however that the Opposition was not strong enough to have carried the fortress by storm. There is always so much more glory, however I think that all parties acted wisely to make the best of the situation, especially when the result places you in so good a nest. Poor Tom must feel sore.

I hope that you may continue to hold the confidence so worthily reposed in you. I am sure that few public men hold so high in the estimation of both friends & foes as you do, tho’ for a few days you [sic] reputation was far below par. I am sorry that McKenzie did not explain matters more publicly. But Mac will make a good representative “into it” he has done more already than our old member did in his whole term or for all his life for that matter. I hope that Betsy is better, I fear that blasted stinking weed is not good for the lungs. My poor wife is always ailing too. I am only thankful that she has stood the wear & tear of so many years weakness so well, but I am afraid this spring that her lungs are give out. I pray that I may be mistaken, but I fear greatly. I have very little to do in my line this spring. I hope you will see that my accts settled as soon as possible I am next thing to be destitute which is too bad when I have an a/c of two or three hundred dollars with the Govt for three months. Can you not send me some stationary, the clerk gets his, why not me?

I hope you will get me my pay as soon as possible I want seed & have nothing to purchase with, & seed is rising in price, it seems to me that your Govt takes a long time to consider a small matter, send me a few dollars anyway & return the same amount when my a/c is paid $25.00 would get me what seed I require.

Goodbye continue in same good old way & you will be happy. I was glad that you had joined BOGT. By the way I have a private lodge of my own & John McDonald K McKenzie & myself run the machine Andrew is going to join us, Keestaw John Jas

G 8696 A - 212 (a) **July 20, 1876 Promissory Note "Harris, A., Son & Co.**

" "City (Winnipeg) " "Setter, John, and Norquay, John" Signed by John Norquay. $47.50. Promise to pay $47.50 with interest of 10% pa until paid.

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| A - 255 | Oct. 2, 1879 | Letter | Setter, John James | Portage la Prairie Man | Neestaw - [Brother-in-Law - Norquay, John] | Stating he must act as Bailiff in connection with his office until he can have his own Bailiff and asking if the Clerk of the Court cannot procure an office in the town as he has to go 5 miles to see if there is any business every day. |

Dear Neestaw In reply to yours, for the present I must accept the position of Bailiff in connection with my office until the land is such that I can have my own Bailiff or deputy. I only had my CC act a day or two when James borrowed it & am as badly of[f] as ever. been on the keen run lately. Can the Clerk not be accommodated with an office in town. It is too bad to have to run down every day 5 miles just to see if there is any work [?plerd] I moved up for the Public accommodation & at my own expense. Surely something can be in this case. Keestaw, J J Setter PS I shall see what I can do in the matter you refer to in your letter, but think it useless on my part.”

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| A - 234 | Dec. 29, 1879 | Letter[private] | Setter, John J. | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John | A banquet to be given to the Gov't. |

“Dear Neestaw

I am sorry to see that the Times has made such a sweep of the Province in spite your united opposition. The friends [of] no party lines of West Marquette will shortly give a Banquet to the government at the Portage. Delegates from the different localities will be present, partly to cram the Times & partly to drive another nail in ---------‘s coffin [sic]

Of course the members will be invited when they will be obliged to fall in every one of them if they should be otherwise included we had thought of giving it to Mr Walker but one consideration thought that it would be out of place for this division to banquet a member from another division, it might in some measure embarrass him, so we thought that the others to all the govt by the friends of no party lines would strengthen the hands of the govt, make a liar of the Times & kill [Joe? Ind?] if possible deader, what do you think of the move? I have been sick again & have had not much to do but scheme. The idea has taken here like everything & we can get up a grand affair, but it will be some time before it can be accomplished as all parts of the County will be communicated with. If you approve with – your obt servant John J Setter a Merry Christmas to all”

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| G 8697 | A - 402 | Jan. 22, 1880 | Letter | Setter, J.J. | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Neestaw [Brother-in-law  - Norquay, John] | Stating he has been sick. |

"Dear Neestaw I have been sick again Just got out a few days when I was down again, it is a kind of epizootic, I can not stand the least exertion. My head nearly drives me mad – the small of my back seems not to be strong enough to hold my body up, what I am to do if this continues is more than I can tell, I was sorry to learn that James [?] is so poorly I hope he is better. Christy Bella is now down with my pet cold. I hope she will not suffer as long & hard as I have.\

I hope you will carry your government through all right, and maintain your hold on the country. I have heard that Joe Ryan has accepted office, so the county will have to look out for a rep People are wanting me out, but I know that I am not qualified. I am surprized that people think so much of my qualifications, if they knew as much about it as I do they would not bother me so, they say that I am the only man in the county that can take it, but I won't, good bye J.J. Setter

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| G 8698 | A - 466 | Sept. 3, 1880 | Letter | Setter, John Jas. | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Neestaw [Brother-in-law, Norquay, John] | Friendly family communication. |  |

"My Dear Neestaw I am happy to inform you that Ann is better, all the feaver is gone, she is very week [sic] yet, but with care, and Kitchen Medicine, she will soon be herself again, her sight has not improved.

Christy Bella's hooping cough is still pretty bad. Maurice is well, Mr. Miller has left yesterday, I fear that he will not make a fortune at farming, he has taken out too much of the luxuries and too little of the necessaries, for farming, for instance $370 worth of furniture and only 1 plow, no harrow, he had 15 cartloads of stuff & not a bit of farming impliments, Yours truly John J Setter

PS I will be down on Tuesday next"

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| G 8697 | A - 425 | Dec. 18, 1880 | Letter | Setter, J.J. | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Meestaw [Brother-in-law - Norquay, John] | Asking him to come up and bid at sale. |  |

"Meestaw [sic] I want you to put in a spoke for me at my sale. I will not bind you to hold what you may bid, please get Bannatyne or some other person whose influence would inhance [sic] the sale, if they will bid up a few. I will give him his choice free of any one of the lots he may bid up for that purpose.

Ann is again bed ridden for the last 8 days, the children are well. Keestaw J J Setter

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| G 8697 | A - 442 | [No Date] | Letter | [Setter, J.J.] | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Mustaw [Brother-in-law - Norquay, John] | Asking for money. |  |

"Dear Neestaw I am sorry to be looking for you this way but I require new money, you will find this account larger than the first, I omitted some items then, & I see that the Council has paid $5. for the use of each polling place & when those from whom I got the places see it they will suspect that I did not do the square thing by them & so have put in a change in the a/c to correspond. I know that the Council must pay these accts but I cannot be waiting until you & them settle this matter; they will be intitled [sic] to a portion of the license money, pay as much of this & charge it to them. J.J.S

For goodness sake do not delay [---- -] the money."

[The office's annotation on this letter says "to Election a/c] [could be December 1879 election]

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| G 8699 | A - 809 | July 4, 1881 | Letter | Setter, J.J. | Portage la Prairie | Neestaw [Brother-in-law, Norquay, John] | Family matters. |  |

"My dear Neestaw How is my poor sister this frightful hot weather? I am very anxious about her, since I saw the account of your last daughter.

Ann is improving wonderfully since I was down, she now sees to do her work fairly, tho' this not perfectly. I gave her a 50 mile ride today without a single rest, we started at 8.30 this morning & returned at 3.30 all the time driving, so you may know that she is not so bad.

The children are well, I think that Maurice will be down on the 12th to Winnipeg with the draymen who want the Band to accompany them. Yours J.J. Setter

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| G 8699 | A - 856 | Dec. 30, 1881 | Letter | Georgen, P. Vances | Portage la Prairie | Norquay, John | Re: Three lots facing the market. | 2 pp. |

Lawyer, handwritten on letterhead: "My dear sir: in accordance with Mr Setter's instructions I have drawn to you a deed of the three lots facing the Market. I have put the consideration in the deed $3500 -- or $500.00 hundred more than the actual price to you.

I have handed all the title deeds to Mr. Setter and as I have a very large amount of money to raise by the 5th of Jany I should feel much obliged if you could wire the $3000.00 (the total price of lots) to my credit.. .." [also put in #74]

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| G 8699 | A - 892 | Dec. 24, [1881] | Letter | Setter, John Jas. | Portage la Prairie, Man. | My Dear Neestaw [Norquay, John] | Encl: Account $100.00 commission. Messrs. Scarth, Norquay & Co. to John Jas. Setter, 25 November 1881. Re: The purchase of property in P. la P. |  |

Cover sheet: "Re the purchase of property in P la P Enclosing a/c of $100 – commission fees"

"My Dear Neestaw Compliments of the season to you all not forgetting Mr. Scarth.

I have in view a good purchase for you, it is 150 feet on Broadway opposite the East end Market, it can be had for $3000 cash. I told the party to hold it for a week, it must be a good investment as the new market is a much better building than the central so called, the new one is really the central, I was in hopes that you would be up so almost assured the party that you would & got him to hold until you would come, & when you did not I requested him to hold for a week further, I will answer for the investment, but you must not expect that every purchase I make will turn out as good as the one on Sask Ave. I was just negotiating a sale for $10,000 for this lot when I got your telegram that if it was not sold that Black was to have it as it was had ------ [?] I thought that perhaps you had given him a bargain that would be mutually satisfactory to you.

I shall be most happy at any time to purchase for you, & will act as your agent here, send me instructions, so far I have had none, as to terms of purchase whether on time or cash down payment also as to commission &c. Yours truly John Jas Setter

Send to me my $100 for last purchase "

Additional sheet – a rough sort of invoice "Portage la Prairie, 25th November 1881 Messrs Scarth Norquay & Co To John Jas Setter

To commission for purchase of Lot on Saskatchewan Avenue Portage la Prairie $100.00"

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| G 8698 | A - 789 (a) | Jan. 11, 1882 | Letter | Souch, W.J., Manager Ontario Bank | Portage la Prairie | Norquay, John | Note for $64.48 to J.J. Setter. | 3 pp. |
| G 8698 | A - 789 (b) | Dec. 24, 1880 | Promissory Note | Norquay, John | Winnipeg | Setter, John James | To pay $64.00 at Ontario Bank, Portage la Prairie in 1  year. |  |
| G 8698 | A - 789 (c) | Dec. 27, 1881 | Protest | James, Wm. J. | Portage la Prairie | Norquay, John | Non-payment of note. J.J. Setter paid costs. |  |

Cover sheet: "*Office of Provl Treasurer* *Statement* From W.J. Souch or Mgr Ontario Bank Portage la Prairie Man *Description* Note $64.48 endorsed by J J Setter protested *Action taken* J J Setter paid cost"

Stamped sheet: "December 24th 1880 one year after date I promise to pay to the order of John James Setter the sum of sixty-four dollars at the Ontario Bank Portage la Prairie, interest at 7 per centum per annum value received [sgd] J. Norquay"

Cross writing: "Protested for non-payment this 27th day of December AD 1881 WJ James Not[ary] Pub[lic]"

Legal form James law office: "*Protest* Pro: Ontario Bank For non payment

Made by J. Norquay endorsed by John J. Setter Notarial fees 2.04 = 70.52

I, William John James, presented promissory note to cashier of Ontario Bank and he answered "No funds" wherof I protest to parties to the promissory note, for all damages, costs 27 Dec 1881"

Letterhead Ontario Bank Portage la Prairie 11 January 1882 to Hon John Norquay Wpg

Dear Sir I enclose you your note to J J Setter for which we have received costs from J.J. Setter, Yours truly W J Souch"

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| G 8700 | A - 1591 | Jan. 30, 1882 | Telegram | Setter, John J. | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John | Re: Casitar estate. | No Cover |

“Send the power of attorney I have sold all govt [?] lots on Casitar estate for more than double”

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| G 8699 | A - 951 | Aug. 22, 1882 | Letter | Setter, John James | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Neestaw [Brother-in-Law - Norquay, John] | Stating he cannot go down as he is alone and business increasing very fast. |  |

"My Dear Neestaw I cannot possibly go down until Monday I am alone Tom having gone West again & the court is coming on shortly; the business cannot be left till the last day of service is over & all our returns in, work is increasing very fast. Yours truly …"

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| G 8700 | A - 1584 | July 21, 1882 | Telegram | Setter, Jno James | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John | Re: Trip to Winnipeg. | No Cover |

“Myself & wife will be down today”

*Journals of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba* 1881, “Public Accounts of the Province of Manitoba” (Thomas Norquay CCO [or CCC?]in Lisgar - $124) (JJ Setter Deputy Sheriff $217)

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| G 8699 | A - 922 | Sept. 19, 1882 | Letter | Shields, Jno. | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Stating he is leaving for Ottawa in the morning and must see Mr. N. before he leaves. |  |

"My dear Norquay JJ and I have called to see you, but failed Come around at any hour tonight to 293 Main St. I am leaving for Ottawa in the morning. Must see you tonight important to you and I Yours faithfully J W Shields

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| G 8700 | A - 1244 | July 12, 1882 | Letter | Heintzman and Co. | Toronto, Ont. | Norquay, John | Whereabouts of Setters piano. | No Cover |

Re your telegram of yesterday – we enclose duplicate of invoice ordered by you for J J Setter. His letter surprised us – not yet received the piano – we don’t know where it has been – almost 4 months on the road, during the cold and wet weather – won’t be in tune – let us know how you find it.

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| G 8700 | A - 1333 | Dec. 27, 1882 | Promissory Note | James W.J., lawyer Notary Public | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John | Notice of a promissory note going to protest. |  |

Take note that pm note dated 24 Dec 1880 for $64 by you payable two years after at the Ontario Bank here and endorsed by JJ Setter was presented by me for payment at the bank and the holders of the note look to you for payment thereof. I this day protested the non-payment.

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| G 8700 | A - 1461 | Feb. 27, 1883 | Letter | Black, W.R. | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John | Private re: land claim. Reply by Norquay. | No Cover 2 pp. |

Stationery of Black & Cooper, barristers, Portage: “Dear Norquay Before you go to Ottawa I wd like to let [you] know how you can do me a great favour.” Use your influence with Dept of Interior to grant a patent “to a mutual friend, Mr. R. W. Rossiter.” “He took up a quarter section SE ¼ Sec 27. T.13 R.19W, some four years ago. He has made large improvements & fulfilled all other conditions except that of residence. Now how can this be got over is the question. He can get affidavits probably alleging some good excuse if necessary but he would like to keep within the truth as much as possible…. [this is put into ch 74 and JN style ch71]

PS: I enclose rec’t from C.C. Clark for the amount due on the suit ags’t you & Setter, by which you will sorrowfully learn that you still owe me $18.00 The note was 65.00 instead of $50.

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| G 8700 | A - 1504 | Feb. 19, 1883 | Receipt | County Court, Marquette West | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Black, Wm. R. | Ontario Bank vs Setter et al claim satisfied. ($75.00). | No Cover |

Ontario Bank vs. Setter et.al. “Received from Wm R. Black $75.00, being the amount required to satisfy the claim and costs…”

**8731 LB C: Patronage** **JN to Geo Wood, Pilot Mound 13 Dec 1883 [p 413]** Apply to Sheriff Inkster for the position, refer him to me for a recommendation, tell him you acted in that capacity while the locality was in the bailiwick of Mr. Setter of Portage la Prairie.

**Family, land,** JN to JW Jackson Portage la Prairie, 14 Oct 1885 [E701] “I have to acknowledge receipt of assessment bills against myself, J.J. Norquay and Elizabeth Norquay and to state that there is no member of my family named Elizabeth Norquay nor do I know of any property designated as that for which Elizabeth Norquay is assessed. Those of my children that are liable to assessment for their grants are Thomas Norquay, John George Norquay, Isabella Jessie Ann Norquay. So if you will kindly see what lands these are liable for and send me an account of the same I will deal with the matter.”

**LB5: Family, government administration** JN to J J Setter 10 Sept 1886 [LB5-19]

“My dear Setter Complaint has just been laid by Mr. Munson & Mr. Ross Manager of some loan company in reference to monies collected by you as sheriff & not paid over by you to them. It has been placed in such a way before the Government that will result in your dismissal if your sureties don’t come to time it appears hard to write in this way but I see no alternative. Yours sincerely, J. Norquay”

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| G 8726 | C - 2253 | Jan. 17, 1887 | Letter | Setter, Jno. James | Portage la Prairie | Norquay, John | Re: John Macdonald's actions in Elections. |

“Dear Sir John McDonald has just shown me a letter that he had written to you, expressing his surprize that any report to the effect that he had been working in the interest of K McK in Lakeside, that a person had been sent up to quietly investigate and report, that the person was satisfied that such was the case, &c.

“I advised him not to send it, as I did not believe a word of it, as his conduct thru’out the campaign was too pronounced to admit of any such conclusion, that I would write and ask you; then if he chose he could then make any explaination [sic] necessary, at present his writing was like one ‘fighting the air’ he has consented to do this.

“Kindly let me know if any such report was really made? And who by? I can asure [sic] you he feels hurt after the stand he took on all occasions, sometimes making it a personal matter, and when occasion presented itself making use of the – to the scotchman—all powerful argument, the ‘Galic,’ On receipt of yours he will give any explanation you may require or that the circumstances of the case demand… yours truly…”

[letterhead of Sheriff’s office, central judicial district]

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| G 8728 | C - 2580 | Feb. 25, 1887 | Letter | Setter, Jno Jas. | Portage la Prairie | Neestaw [Norquay, John] | Re: Family matters. |

Sheriff’s Office Central Judicial District letterhead:

“My Dear Neestaw: I am very sorry to hear of the illness in your house. I sincerely hope that it is nothing serious. Corrigal was in with us last night and gave us the news, but not as bad as Mrs. Georgen. I was glad to hear however that Nelly was on the recovery. Let us hope that Bella’s attack will be over as quickly.

We are all pretty well at home except C.B. she is not pulling up as I would wish, she has got over her headaches however and a little more rest and recreation will bring her out all right, I think.

I am afraid that this Riding is lost. I cannot tell positively what Watson’s majority is as all my returns are not in yet. I will not know positively until Monday.

Hoping that all will be well with you in a few days, and with love to all Keestaw John James Setter

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| G 8728 | C - 2776 | March 5, 1887 | Letter | Kennedy, Wm. | St. Andrew’s | Norquay, John | Re: Roderick's money. |

“My Dear Mr Norquay, Today I have had a letter from my brother Roderick in which he informs me he has lost his excellent wife after a very short illness. It must have been about the 25th ulto & it will be an irreparable loss as she had to nurse a lame boy in addition to household duties.

“Towards the close of his letter he says: ‘While I am writing I wish you would inquire of Mr. Norquay respecting a matter I have never alluded to you. In 1881 I advanced the sum of $2000 to Sheriff Setter at his request & after consulting Mr. Norquay which Setter said he could place to my advantage. I have written of late years frequently to Setter on the subject & once to Mr. Norquay & from neither have I received any answer. Please ask Mr. Norquay what he knows of the matter & what has become of the money or what it represents.’

“Hoping you will excuse my having to write you on this matter & also again to express our sympathy with you & your family in the present visitation. I remain,

very sincerely yrs Wm Kennedy

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| G 8728 | C - 2633 | April 9, 1887 | Letter | Setter, J. Jas. | Portage la Prairie | Norquay, John | Re: Jim Robinson. |

“Dear Sir I am glad to learn that you are getting back, for some wonderful combinations have been matured since you left, even our beauty Robinson I hear has joined the peskey crowd. I received word from Poplar Point that if J.M.R. goes back on you that two parties there would divulge, so he had better be very careful. They say that they got money from his own hands. I hope that you are in a position to give some satisfactory assurance [sic] re R.R. Charters in the old Prov – this will help, but it will not satisfy the grits you will have to fight them any way, no matter what you promise.

Christabel is not doing as well as I would like I am sending her to Mrs. Black – Carberry – for a few days. Maurice and [?--] are quite well but terribly lonely. I hope your family have quite recovered. Good luck to you Neestaw. You have not lost with the public by dismissing C.P. Yours truly, John Jas Setter” [Sheriff’s Office letterhead]

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| G 8728 | C - 2623 | April 12, 1887 |  | Letter | Setter, J. Jas. | Portage la Prairie | "Neestaw" [Norquay, John] | Re: J.M. Robinson. |

Sheriff’s Office “My Dear Neestaw Will you please let me know what your prospects are, I hear all sorts of reports.

I suppose that you know who I referred to in my last letter when I said that two Poplar Point men were willing to split on M.M. should he go against you, they are Charles Spence and Joe’s boy, these can be made to take action or if they are unwilling others can and take them as witnesses, it is true they may also be prosecuted, but if they take the first action, they get first judgment & out of J.M.’s fine they can pay theirs, so that on that score they need not fear anything.

Something must be done at once to put down the miserable sneak, he openly boasts that he is the ringleader in the new combination, that C P [Brown?] is only second fiddle, he says that Cliffe was right all the time but was not cute enough to keep mum until the elections were over, see the treachery of the D---d, however he must be hounded to death I will put Maurice on him too so that he will have to meet debts amounting to something like $1,000 this includes the above cases. Yours truly John James Setter”

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| G 8730 | Misc | Oct. 31, 1887 | Receipt | Hudson's Bay Co. | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Paid up account for $161.08. |

On 15 & 17 Oct, they bought 66 yds Brussels, 30 yds Border, then 10 yds Brussels and 4 brass rods [stairs?]

“pd by JN out of Setter note proceeds” scrawled on it

**John Setter letters**

A - 185

A – 229, 3 September 1879

A – 252, 10 September 1879

A – 355 (b) 1 October 1879 and 2 October 1879

A – 237, 8 October 1879

A – 328, 1 November 1879

A – 241, 8 November 1879

A – 371, 24 November 1879

A – 617, 28 May 1880

A – 634, 26 July 1880

A – 792, 12 September 1881

A – 785, 14 October 1881

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| A - 185 | April 6, 1875 | Letter | Setter, John | Parks Creek | Norquay, John | Stating he cannot meet the Int. $80.00 now due. |

“Hon John Norquay

My dear sir: I have not the amount at this time that you would wish to have as I took down the last [hand?] of all the cash I had on hand. All the cash I have at present is $20 or 25 dollars. The last knight [sic] you spoke to me I thought at once that I would let you have it as I got it in. But I rely [really] cant meet the $80.00 just now. These men [mead] not be at a lose I will see them paid only [camde: send?] me the amount that is due to each man.

Privat) If you want a few dollars to leave with your family you can get it. Your truly John Setter

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| G 8697 | A - 286 | Aug. 12, 1879 | Telegram | Norquay, John & Schultz, John | City (Winnipeg) | Aikins, J.C., Sec. Of State, Ottawa | Recommending J. Setter for Indian Agency. |

Copy of wire, handwritten on form of North Western Telegraph Company: to J C Aikins Secy of State: “No native of Manitoba apptd strongly recommend John Setter Indian Instructor Edmonton Agency Stewart wishes it may we assure him of apptmt

Coll J Norquay John Schultz

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| A - 229 | Sept. 3, 1879 | Letter | Setter, John | Bismark [sic] | Norquay, John | Friendly and private note. |

[Flowing hand, lots of spelling errors: From Bismarck, hasn’t heard from Mr Begg – would JN write to the Postmaster General?]

“Hon John Norquay My dear sir

“I was sorry that you could not get of [off] with me on that trip you would have had a plesent trip a good deal of sport along the Road Duck shuting by some gentleman at one Laek the cars Remaind about a half hower great shutting was carried on But very little killed. Bismark is a small town to Winipeg all surrounded by hills it is a very pretty place and the people fraindly I am quite at home and in good health…

I believe it will take the Boat twelve or fifteen days to get up the water is Reported low Yours truly John Setter”

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| G 8697 | A - 355 (a) | Sept. 3, 1879 |  | Letter | Setter, John | Bismarck, Dakota Territory | Norquay, John | Friendly note. |
| G 8697 | A - 355 (b) | Oct. 1, 1879 |  | Letter | Setter, John | Benton, Montana | Norquay, John | Friendly note. |

First letter on Merchants Hotel stationery, Bismarck DT, second letter on stationery of Overland Hotel, Benton, Montana

First: "Hon John Norquay My Dear Sir Mr. Begg arrived at half past twelve with the horses and he also handed us our instructions and the rest of the stuff will be in this evening We start at five tomora morning as far as I can learn all parties have to go to Fort Walsh and their each partie gets his orders I don't find the time longsom [lonesome] I am getting well acquinted with Rel Road travling and now comes the steam boat and the next will be the Indian and I hope I will soon get in the way of dealing with them to satisfactory

I will wright you more fully when I get settled down and at the mean time I thank you most kindly for what you have dun for me and I asshure you that I will do my best according to my instructions

Excuse in haste just leaving Bismark for the Boat to be ready for the morning the Landing is about three mils up the River

Give my best respects to my family and also your family wishing you well Yours truly John Setter"

And the 2nd:

"My dear Sir I arrived yesterday had to travil across Land from Cow Iland on account of Low water the Boat could not get further three waggon loads of passengers threw a very Ruff contry

I hope that you will wright me and let me know how you are getting on with your election

I expect that we will be leaving here by Mondy, I will wright you more fully when I get settled down. Just now I am tired out

Compliments to your family and your self Yours truly John Setter"

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| A - 252 | Sept. 10, 1879 | Letter | Setter, John | Buford [Montana?] [Dakota?] | Norquay, John | Friendly note. |

“My dear sir I am afraid that we will be a long time going up on account of low water I believe that we are only the third of the way to Benton as yet I have nothing particular to wright at present hoping that you will get along all wright with your allection and if there is anything that the boys can assist you don’t hesitate in asking them to assist you in your allections….Compliments you’re your self and family Yours truly John Setter

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| A - 237 | Oct. 8, 1879 | Letter | Setter, John | Fort Benton, N.W.T. | Norquay, John | Friendly note. |

My dear sir

Still at Benton in good helth had a long trip over Stuff is not all in from Cow Iseland as yet but expect to leave by next Monday and I understand the trip will be from eight to ten days….I hope you will wright me as soon as possible as I have not had word from you or my family.

I had the plasure of seen two soildiers hung on Munday at half past eleven for murder This murder was commited last December I cant say wether this murder was a sitision [citizen] or one of their selves Their Lawes are very strict here take it all in all the place is quiet and seem all fraindly. I have seen here the other day one of the offishers from Fort Walsh I had a conversation with him gives the tribes of Indians out ther all peasible Wright [write] and let me know about your allection [election]

My best wishes to your family and your self and acquentences with kind regards John Setter

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| G 8697 | A - 328 | Nov. 1, 1879 | Letter | Setter, John | Fort Walsh | Norquay, John | Private family and friendly note. |

I again take the opertunity in wrighting to you I have not had word from you or any of my family since I left Winnipeg I am quite at home here I am living in town at present I will not be further than four or five miles from town the nearest end of the resarve I will for the present build a temporary house to live in for the winter and Mr English will be about seven miles from me his place is at the upper end of the Siperis Mountain

This is a great place for Indians This is their rout to the Bufflo from what I can learn from the Indians that the Bufflo is only two days from here between here and the Wood Mountain They expect that the Bufflo will travel north But with all the tribs it will be hard for the Bufflo to get past but I was advising them not to run them across the line for fear that they might travel south, I cannot give you any information of the country here as yet as I had no time to rabit around as yet There is a few whit settlers here that came in this fawl to settle down and give it a trial The winter is here is very mild as yet. But they seem to say that the next month is cold and stormy that is all the information I can give you at present hoping that your allection will run you in with a larger majority and it will be a credit to our country friends give them all my best respects hoping that your head supporters will stick firm and work your allection

My best respect to Mrs Norquay Yourself and family hopeing that you will get allacted Yours truly John Setter

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| A - 241 | Nov. 8, 1879 | Letter | Setter, John | Fort Walsh | Norquay, John | Thanking Mr. N. for the kindness to his Mother. |

“My dear friend

I received your letter the other day am sorry to here that my mother being unwell and I do thank you and Mrs. Norquay for your kindness to my mother hoping that she will get strong

Monday if well I start down to the Lower end of the mountain for the winter the Police is got a station their I expect the sorvayers [surveyors] their this winter Mr Dewdney is very kind to me very kind to the Indians and has great pations [patience] with them about 2000 Indians going and coming scinse [Since] I arived here the Soltox [Saulteaux] and Crees and Indian halfbreeds are by Indians at the present time

Mr Dewdney is of [off] to Canada will not be back until the end of Febaruary I have been intarpeter for him since I came here,

Private[:] he told me privately that he interested to do something for me but what it is I can say This is a poor country all I have seen of it as yet but they seem to say that at the foot of the mountain and toward to the Wood Mountain is good land Wright me again Complements to all Yours truly John Setter

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| G 8697 | A - 371 | Nov. 24, 1879 | Letter | Setter, John | [Foot of the Mount[a]in] Rock Mountain N.W.T. | Norquay, John | Friendly note about his moves among the Indians. |

'Private' My Dear Sir Theire I am here for the winter until further notice had one visit from the Shoes thay [sic] are a hard Lot, I have no nuse [news] to wright you nothing of nuse here Bofflo is scarse on this side of the Line and the country all around here is all Burnt I am afraid it will be rather hard for some of the tribs of Indians theire is a few free men here for the winter thay have lots of green meet [meat] But thay say that thay have to leave arley [early] in the spring on account of the shoes that thay are such a pest that thay would starve their families out as long as thay know that a man has a mouthful thay will ly around

I find it rather hard here at present not for myself but for my two horses no hay no oats to feed them on thay are doing very well as yet no winter here as yet But the free men here says from about hallow days [holy – Christmas?] the snow commences and storms, how is your winter in Winipeg plenty of snow and cold

Here it is more of the Indian sommer here how is the people of St Andrews sucseading [succeeding] with their steam mill that thay intend to put up. I hope that thay will sucseade, I have several visits from the Crees and Saltose Indians every day I am speeking to them I am continuley telling them that the sooner thay settle down the better for themselves and thay would find the benefit of it in lase [less] than two years The Crees is quite taking up with me being a native and explaining to them for their Intrest – as I told them that it was a native that was at the head of government at Winipeg thay ware soprisd [surprised]

I can't give you the whole detail of all my convesations with them But I ashure you I will do my best in speaking to them and for the intrest of the Government and now I close with best regards to yourself and family I remain, yours Dear Sir Your friend, John Setter

Sir ennything that you might no [know] where I might be a benefit or a advice from you out here please and let me know for this is where a man has to use his little knowlege {Private [sic]"

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| G 8698 | A - 617 | May 28, 1880 | Letter | Setter, John | Maple Creek | Norquay, John | Private friendly letter. |  |

"Mapel [sic] Creek May 28th 1880 [much nicer hand, straight lines, long thick paper]

Hon John Norquay My Dear Sir I again take the pleasure in wrighting to you hoping that your self and family are all well I am Besuey [busy?] farming at present the soil appers good but I cant say about the frosts as yet.

Times is prity tame among the Indians no Bofflo but the reports that that will likely come over to this side in a few weeks I have no much nuse to wright you, my cheaf came in to the farm three days ago but his tribe is not in as yet But he expects them in a day or two, at present their [sic]is seventy loges of the crees campt here living on fish lots of fish here where I am the creek is full of them It is a long time since I received a letter from you wright me and give me all the nuse you can

Is their a chance for those that had not received their grant of Land there is a Daughter of Alexander Gaddy out here and she is married to a Scotch Lad and he is here with me on the farm as forman he is a good man and he asked me to try and find out about his wife grant and if their is a chance Let me know her name is Margaret. Yours truly John Setter"

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| G 8698 | A - 627 | July 10, 1880 | Letter | Setter, John | Fort Walsh | Norquay, John | The trouble among the Indians almost over. |  |

"My Dear Sir I again take the pleasure of wrighting you a few lines the great excitement is over among the Indians for this year [--] that is their treaty money[.] you will have the chance of seeing the Lt. Col McDonald the Indian agent at Winipeg on the seventeenth of the next month you can find out from him as I think that I will be moved down to Capel [Qu'Appelle] as he told me that Mr Dewdney told him that he intended to have me down their this he told me privetly so I wish you could find out by enquiring as if I had not wrote to you Let me know privatly if there is anything that you think may be for my intrest[.] If I saw enny chance of leaving I would apply for a month visit as I find the time long without my family I thought to get must [most] of the Indians of [off] to the Playens [plains] after Bofflo But I cant say wither thay will all go or not Give me all the nuse you saw[.] give my kind respects to all your family and yourself hopping you will hold the Renze [reins] as tite [tight] as usewall [usual] even out here the half bread gets a hit I have had some arguments out here on your part so I hop and wish that you will hold the four years out[.] wishing you every success I do not have ennything of nuse [news] With kind Regards, I Remain, you Dr Sir, Yours Faithfully, John Setter

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| G 8698 | A - 634 | July 26, 1880 | Letter | Setter, John | Fort Walsh | Norquay, John | Re: The Indians. |  |

Fine bold hand, spelling!!

"My Dear Sir I again take the pleasure of addressing you a few lines hoping that your self and family are all well it is sum time since I hard from you Last I have no great nuse to inform you of at present But attending to the Indians every day giving them rations at present there is about 800 to feed and still coming in it is a hard task to be among those tribes of Indians especially with the North Crees continually grumbling and dissatisfied I had more talking to do since last January then I have seen for this last twelve years to those difrent tribes trying to convince them the benefit that thay would do themselves to sattle down and make a living of their farmes as told them about the farm here and the Indian with his little gardin I must say that I give my Indians great credit attending to these gardins thay have givin [given] their Potatoes the second howing [hoeing] and their Potatoes most all out in Blosom and any help I ask from them thay are willing I got wood in for a building forty feet long I spoke to the chief to get his men to assist in geting the building up he came along with his men and the fifth day finished Little Child is the name of the chief here of the Soltox [Saulteaux] he is a very good Indian he assistes me a great deal and antious [anxious] to sattle down But not satisfied of the Plase here as a resarve on account of wood But it is not desided where he will go and take his resarve.

The crope here looks very well at present the wheat is coming out of year [ear?] oats looks well and potatoes the drawback on the crops is on account of rain only had two showers of rain for this last two months I saw Mr Galt here and he asked me to remain as he said that I was much required here at present [.] at present [sic] this is headquarters for all tribes traveling and defrant [different?] of those tribes If thay wish to go north I have to supply them with little rations for so meny days travil the plase here is lively yet for all I find the time in times longsome [lonesome] without my family, I did not aske Mr Galt about what you had dun for me in seeing Mr Dewdney but he mearly asked me that I had applied to Mr Dewdney but did not give me time to answer him but asked me to remain as I was much required at present here Mr Galt was very kind to me and quite satisfied with what I have dun and also let me have a bookkeeper also as I told him it was imposible for me to attend to all Trust to shoe [show] you how I give out rations to the Indians it works well I take the name of the man and give him a ticket and each family brings its ticket every morning no 1,2,3, and so on to the last family Yours truly John Setter"

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| G 8698 | A - 792 | Sept. 12, 1881 | Letter | Setter, John | Crooked Lake Farming Agency | Norquay, John | Private letter on purely personal subjects. |  |

My Dear Sir I take the plasure of addresing you a few lines hoping that your self and family are all well I have no particular nuse at present Bussy at the crope the crope came on well, today I intend to commence stacken wheat I belive this is as fine a part of the contry for farming all vegatibels grain well excuse in hest [haste] wright me and give me a little nuse out in this desolate plase give my kind respects to your family yours faithfully John Setter

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| G 8698 | A - 785 | Oct. 14, 1881 | Letter | Setter, John,  Farm Instructor | Crooked Lake Farming Agency | Norquay, John | Re: Strayed horse. |  |

"My Dear Sir I hard of you visiting Qu'Appelle I wish you came my way you could of killed as many ducks in one day that would kept you the must part of the fall Your horse was braught in to my Place by a Indian a Black horse with a cow Bell on him tonight the Frenchman that you had told about your horse after you put the cow bell on him has told me all the Particulars how it came that you left the horse on the road so by puting the Bell on him saved him from dieing [?] I will keep the horse until I here [hear] from you no stamp on the horse

and I have another horse that a Indian had no story a dark brown horse and the mate of the horse is a cream or a Bishor culler [colour] the horse is […?] got tangled in the woods with his teather [tether] as the Indian told me no stamp on the horse

and this same French man told me that he thought this horse belongs to one Campbell as Mr McClain [McLean] of the HBC at Qu'Apppelle told him so But he is not sertin I have your horse in the stable as he finds the cold very much

Wright me and give me some nuse and let me know what you think of the land out here

My kind respect to your self and family Yours faithfully John Setter Farm Instructor

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| G 8699 | A - 831 | Jan. 29, 1882 | Letter | Setter, John | Qu'Appelle  Indian Office | Norquay, John | Re: Farming in North West. |  |

"My Dear Sir I received your letter and was happy to here from you all and more so to here of your going to Scotland to lecture

on the Northwest and I hope that the People of the old contry will take a great intrest to lison [listen] to a natif Born give them a true statement. There is for one Instance as I know dun [done] thru [threw] me at the farm at Fort Walsh, sowed wheat on the 10th of May 1880 and had it cut down by the 16th September without frost and good Prime wheat

As you know yourself there is a light frost most enny year in July but so light that it is not taking notice of

Enny farmer in the North West if he can manage to commence say from the 26th April he is safe from frost I have not been caught with frost since I have ben in the North West – I have taken it as a stand for this last few years from the 12th to the 16th of September that frost is liable to come at enny time

Hoping that this will be a little help to you and as for my land I am not at all prepared to sell as yet I have no thought for it as yet. Land will become valuable in a very few years. With kind regards to your self and family I remain yours faithfully John Setter I have ben up here for this last ten days"

**Andrew Setter, Duncan Setter**

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| A - 168 | March 21, 1875 | Letter & Collection Notice | Setter, Duncan | Poplar Point, Man. | Norquay, John -  Brother-in-law | Asking Mr. N. to see Barrister McKenzie and explain that the Bill for subscription for the Manitoban for 4 years is wrong. He refused the paper and is no subscriber for the same. Enclosure: [?] McKenzie, Barrister to Rich[ar]d Setter, Poplar Point. 13 March 1875. |

Dear Brother in law: I am very sorry to troble you to do a little pice of business for me. In 1870 I subscribed for the Manitoban for one year when the year was out I did not want it any more I went to the Postmaster Mr. Sweatman and told him to send back the papers he did so and I never went after them again and know [now] I got a note from McKenzie the Lawyer for four years payment for the paper I don’t think it is right and if you will see McKenzie and tell him about it I think he will see it is not right

I am sending the note for you to see and if I have to pay it tell McKenzie I am not prepared to do so at present I would be very much oblidge to you if you can do it for me soon we are all my love [sic] to you all I remain Your truly Duncan Setter

Try and make it all right

Answer by first mail if you please

[The bill itself is addressed to Richd Setter Poplar Pt, dated 13 Mar 1875, written my McKenzie Bar &C, on behalf of Mr. Coldwell, for $9.28.]

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| A - 169 | Aug. 28, 1875 | Letter | Setter, Duncan | High Bluff, Man. | Norquay, John - Netaw [Brother-in-law] | Family news and offering Mr. N.'s oxen and stating he is going to sell his horse. |

Dear Netaw

I write you a few lines letting you know that we are all well and I hope you are the same. We are getting pretty well through our hay and Roderick is going on the railroad. I was thinking to make a bargain about your yoke of oxen if you have so sold them yet. I was thinking to make a short trip this fall to [Fort] Pelly. I would keep two of your cows next winter and as soon as the snow falls I would go down and hall [haul] your wood for the winter.

I was thinking of selling my mare she has been out all the time and is very fat doing nothing. If you can lend me the oxen or sale them to me let me know as soon as possible if you please. Remember us to Betsy

Yours truly Duncan Setter Let me know next mail and you will oblidge me.

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| A - 185 | April 6, 1875 | Letter | Setter, John | Parks Creek | Norquay, John | Stating he cannot meet the Int. $80.00 now due. |

“Hon John Norquay

My dear sir: I have not the amount at this time that you would wish to have as I took down the last [hand?] of all the cash I had on hand. All the cash I have at present is $20 or 25 dollars. The last knight [sic] you spoke to me I thought at once that I would let you have it as I got it in. But I rely [really] cant meet the $80.00 just now. These men [need] not be at a lose I will see them paid only [camde: send?] me the amount that is due to each man.

Privat) If you want a few dollars to leave with your family you can get it. Your truly John Setter

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| G 8697 | A - 371 | Nov. 24, 1879 | Letter | Setter, John | [Foot of the Mount[a]in] Rock Mountain N.W.T. | Norquay, John | Friendly note about his moves among the Indians. |

'Private' My Dear Sir Theire I am here for the winter until further notice had one visit from the Shoes thay [sic] are a hard Lot, I have no nuse [news] to wright you nothing of nuse here Bofflo is scarse on this side of the Line and the country all around here is all Burnt I am afraid it will be rather hard for some of the tribs of Indians theire is a few free men here for the winter thay have lots of green meet [meat] But thay say that thay have to leave arley [early] in the spring on account of the shoes that thay are such a pest that thay would starve their families out as long as thay know that a man has a mouthful thay will ly around

I find it rather hard here at present not for myself but for my two horses no hay no oats to feed them on thay are doing very well as yet no winter here as yet But the free men here says from about hallow days [holy – Christmas?] the snow commences and storms, how is your winter in Winipeg plenty of snow and cold

Here it is more of the Indian sommer here how is the people of St Andrews sucseading [succeeding] with their steam mill that thay intend to put up. I hope that thay will sucseade, I have several visits from the Crees and Saltose Indians every day I am speeking to them I am continuley telling them that the sooner thay settle down the better for themselves and thay would find the benefit of it in lase [less] than two years The Crees is quite taking up with me being a native and explaining to them for their Intrest – as I told them that it was a native that was at the head of government at Winipeg thay ware soprisd [surprised]

I can't give you the whole detail of all my convesations with them But I ashure you I will do my best in speaking to them and for the intrest of the Government and now I close with best regards to yourself and family I remain, yours Dear Sir Your friend, John Setter

Sir ennything that you might no [know] where I might be a benefit or a advice from you out here please and let me know for this is where a man has to use his little knowlege {Private [sic]"

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| A - 187 | April 1, 1875 | Letter | Setter, John J.[not the Parks Creek JohnSetter] | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John - Neestaw [Brother-in-Law] | **Congratulating Mr. N. upon having secured a seat in the Cabinet and other matters of private interest.** |

“My Dear Neestaw

I am so glad that you have again succeeded to a seat in the Ministry. I hope that you may have a blessing with it, you at least have settled friend Hay. I am sorry however that the Opposition was not strong enough to have carried the fortress by storm. There is always so much more glory, however I think that all parties acted wisely to make the best of the situation, especially when the result places you in so good a nest. Poor Tom must feel sore.

I hope that you may continue to hold the confidence so worthily reposed in you. I am sure that few public men hold so high in the estimation of both friends & foes as you do, tho’ for a few days you [sic] reputation was far below par. I am sorry that McKenzie did not explain matters more publicly. But Mac will make a good representative “into it” he has done more already than our old member did in his whole term or for all his life for that matter. I hope that Betsy is better, I fear that blasted stinking weed is not good for the lungs. My poor wife is always ailing too. I am only thankful that she has stood the wear & tear of so many years weakness so well, but I am afraid this spring that her lungs are give out. I pray that I may be mistaken, but I fear greatly. I have very little to do in my line this spring. I hope you will see that my accts settled as soon as possible I am next thing to be destitute which is too bad when I have an a/c of two or three hundred dollars with the Govt for three months. Can you not send me some stationary, the clerk gets his, why not me?

I hope you will get me my pay as soon as possible I want seed & have nothing to purchase with, & seed is rising in price, it seems to me that your Govt takes a long time to consider a small matter, send me a few dollars anyway & return the same amount when my a/c is paid $25.00 would get me what seed I require.

Goodbye continue in same good old way & you will be happy. I was glad that you had joined BOGT. By the way I have a private lodge of my own & John McDonald K McKenzie & myself run the machine Andrew is going to join us, Keestaw John Jas John James Setter Portage la Prairie to JN, 1 April 1875 NP A-187

“I hope that Betsy is better, I fear that blasted stinking weed is not good for the lungs. My poor wife is always ailing too. I am only thankful that she has stood the wear & tear of so many years weakness so well, but I am afraid this spring that her lungs are give out. I pray that I may be mistaken, but I fear greatly. I have very little to do in my line this spring.” [John James Setter Portage la Prairie to JN, 1 April 1875 NP A-187]

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| G 8697 | A - 445 | Nov. 22, 1880 | Letter | Setter, John Jas. | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Meestaw [Brother-in-law - Norquay, John] | Asking Mr. Brown & Mr. Norquay's assistance re: money matters. |  |

My Dear Neestaw I have written to Brown about endorsing I was going to sell my lands & get out of debt but then the road turned in to here I could not think of selling for $1500, which I was going to take, now my lands are worth some $8,000 dollars this very day, & I ask the assistance of you and Brown until I get about at[?] it, I have had a terrible time with Ear ache & neuralgia I got no sleep for 19 nights but the last two I have been better, but still pretty bad I cannot get far out in the cold, Ann is again down, she has not been out of bed for three days, however I am glad to say that she is easier tonight. Yours truly John Jas Setter

G 8696 A – 210 **Sept. 11 1876 Letter Setter, Jas. J. Portage la Prairie, Man. "Norquay, John – Neestaw** [Brother-in-Law]" Annotated: "Condoling with Mr. N. over the loss of his baby and informing him that a young Setter has arrived."

“My Dear Neestaw Yours of the 4th inst was recd I am sorry to learn that you have lost that sweet little baby I am sure that poor Betsy must feel lowly as you state. I suppose that you have heard that we had a little son it was born when I was down, so you may take Betsy “down a peg” for her pills were after all not the thing I thought they were as they must have been just a month too late to have done any good in the way I supposed I would have inserted a notice in the papers only I wanted to keep Christy in suspense for a while, we can’t get on with harvest, so much rain, yours J J Setter My son was born on the 1st of August”

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| A - 31 | Dec. 2, 1878 | Letter | Setter, John James | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John |

Ann is not well, “I fear that she is sinking, she takes the most gloomy aspect of affairs… she has become a confirmed hypochondriac.”

“McKenzie is going to get married to Philip’s next daughter. & he has one left for Alex & a little one for the little chap, Duncan’s boy, they may very appropriately be called Old Setter’s reserve.”

Many names to succeed the late Mr. Cornish

“My love to Betsy & the children. How are poor Carrie’s children? I hear that poor Donald is still soaking in whiskey, which, of course bodes no good to his family.

Neestaw, John Jas Setter”

**Colin C. Setter**

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| A - 230 | Nov. 19, 1879 | Letter | Setter, Colin | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Telling Mr. N. he has a lot of good wood up there and  asking to be employed to cut it. |

“Dear John

As you are got a good wood lot up here and lots of money all the time going to waste in it would you not hire me to cut a couple hundred cords or so if you will do so I will cut it very reasonable and draw it to a safe place on the bank of the river where you can either sale to the boat or craft it down in the spring there is money in it if you only try it I shall do it very cheap

The elections is very quiet just now the opposite party is going to make things fly around I believe wishing you good luck in your own election I remain

Your Nestaw, Colin C. Setter

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| A - 345 | Aug. 12, 1879 | Letter | Setter, Colin C. | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Asking information as to where he can borrow money at a low ratio. |

Dear Norquay Could you give me any information as to where I could get money to borrow and the smalest [sic] interest with it. I can give good security for it. I here [sic] Bain & Bld [Blanchard] had money for the purpose – is it so or not. If it is please let me know. I was out west and sold my horse for oxen. That is the reason I would like to get some money and not sell my oxen till spring when oxen sire -- a good price. How did you get along with your horse – not very good, I suppose, to[o] many friends, voters, I mean – you better let me have that horse next spring and take grain for the service of the horse one could make well that way up here. Our crops looks splendid up here some have made a commencement last week already with wheat and Barley I must conclude as I have no more news to tell you. Our Best wishes to you all and -, remain, yours etc, Colin C. Setter

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| G 8697 | A - 334 | Dec. 22, 1879 | Letter | Setter, Colin C. | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Wood. |

Dear Norquay As we did not have a right chance to talk to each other that night about our bargin about the wood I thought that I would write you a few lines about it and that is to ask you if you thought that we could get the wood taken down by the boat on a barge if so there would be danger of loosing any thing may be you could do that with them better than I could If you think we can manage that please write by return mail and I will be very glad

I was out to the old Shanty and got it fixed up and tomorrow I will have the men at work in ernest wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

I remain yours etc Colin C. Setter

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| G 8697 | A - 396 | Feb. 2, 1880 | Letter | Setter, Colin | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Re: Wood. |

Dear John

I thought it my duty to write you a few lines as to how we are getting along with the wood business. I am getting along splendid now. I have about 25 cords hauld to the river I have only two teams drawing at present but I am getting another yoke of oxen today so I shall have three teams of my own. James Hourie and Duncan are one and I am going to get their teams for a couple of weeks so you see I shall hoop her in. Now supposing you was to take it of[f] my hands up her[e] what would you give a cord to me and I would see it on the boat up here I shall do it cheap as that way I am going to put in a big crop this spring. But don't put your self out any way about this for any way will suit me but I would rather it up here hoping your all well, I remain

your affectionate B. in law

Colin C. Setter

PS Please rite to me by return mail and let me know some of the news. CCS

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| G 8697 | A - 426 | Dec. 13, 1880 | Letter | Setter, Colin C. | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Acknowledging receipt of letter from Mr. N. and asking him to take a ticket for a raffle. |  |

"Dear John I recived [sic]your letter and was glad to see that you are good enough to give me a chance to make a little money, but I am sorry to say that I can't give you in a report of the place till I go out and see it as there has been such a change on the places since I was out there last owing to the high water from the Lake however I will try and send in a report on Saturdays mail.

I am going to have a Raffle on Thursday evening the raffle is a rame [?] of horses there is four prizes in the raffle that is the highest throw takes the mare second the horse and third the harness and lowest of all takes the Bobsleighs worth $38 at the last you are a lucky man you ought to take a ticket and I will throw for you my Tickets are $4.00 each I heard you were going to raffle of your little horse too if so please let me know where it is to be and I will chance a ticket on him Jemima send her love and respects

PS the mare is a very handsome mare seven years old

To you all and except the same from yours very truly Colin C. Setter

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| G 8700 | A - 1394 | Nov. 1882 | Letter | Setter, Colin C. | High Bluff, Man. | Nestaw [Brother-in-Law, Norquay, John] | Asking Mr. N. to draw some money for him on account of work done for the Government. |  |

“Dear Nestaw Mr Bubber the man that has my teams employed said that when the work was done that he would send me my time to Winnipeg he said that he would send it in care of you as the government had to pay for the ditch that he was working at so if you would enquire at the post office for the letter and open it & get the pay from C.P. Brown for me you would oblige me greatly. Yours Truly Colin C. Setter”

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| G 8703 | C - 437 | April 1, 1884 | Letter | Setter, Colin C. | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John | Sueing Alloway & Champion. |

Mr. Norquay Dear Sir I suppose that you were so Busy since Parliament opened that you could not write to me about what Mr. Brown knew about the case that I am about sueing [sic] Alloway & Champion for my lawyers seems to think that what Mr. Brown knows about the case is sufficient to convict them that is when they were willing to take the money from him Mr Brown told me himself once out at Gladstone last summer that we he said were going to settle it with them once so he did not say any more to me about it on account of the wagon coming up to where we were talking he was in a hurry. I am thinking of going out west But am [sic] not got anything to help me of[f] with[.] I have got nothing hear to do in the way to earn a little for my family support hoping you will do your Best for me as I am very very hard up. I remain yours truly Colin C Setter

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| G 8702 | C - 273 | Sept. 22, 1884 | Letter | Setter, C.C. | Broadview NWT | Norquay, John | Coal oil min. Replied. See L.B."D" p157. |  |

“My Dear Norquay I was talking to a man out here from the north he says that he has discovered a mine. I think by the way he presents it to me it must be a coal oil mine. But he calls it a tar mine. He say that he can put in a stick and lift it up & it will bring from it just the same as soft tar does now dear John if you think this will be anything to my profit be good enough to let me know immediately he is a man that can show me 3 places like this. I am at present out here for the horse that I left out here this summer & bad luck follows me here again. I don’t know how my family is getting along all this time[.] in talking about my horse I forgot to state he is stole[n.] When you write adress [sic] letter to Virden. Hoping to here [sic] from you by return mail this is no fraud. Yours truly C.C. Setter

Replied see LBD p 157

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| G 8705 | C - 1147 | July 24, 1885 | Letter | Setter, Colin C. | High Bluff | Rennie, Mr. | See Mr. N. & get him a place on Committee. No action. |

“Mr Rennie Old friend Just a few lines asking you to do me a little obligement.” I could assess NW Rebellion losses. I’ve asked JN but he might forget. I know all the parties, and all the country, and “how to drive through it & as I have lost all I had up there & not able to stand expenses to go out there for the purpose of getting my claim good it would be a good chance for me however try your best for a good old friend that run so many damn risks out there this spring….”

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| G 8705 | C - 1170 | Oct. 20, 1885 | Letter | Setter, Jessie C.[Colin’s mother] | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Wishing to know names of the adjudicators of  rebellion claims. See L.B. "F" p20. November 6, 1885. |

Dear Sir: Wishes names and addresses of the Commissioners “in regard to the settling of the losses of the late rebellion…. I remain your old Friend, Jessie C. Setter”

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| G 8705 | | C - 1194 | | Nov. 16, 1885 | | Receipt | | Setter, Wm. | | City (Winnipeg) | | Norquay, John | | Receipt for $50.00 on a/c of steer. | |

JN pd $50.00 for “white & red steer” – [farm]

**JN to “Harry Muma, Chairman, Rebellion Losses Court 11 Nov 1885[E752**] JN encloses letter from Jessie C. Setter, “now of High Bluff but who was at Battleford during the recent rebellion and who sustained losses through the destruction caused by the Indians in that neighbourhood. I am personally aware that Mrs. Setter was there during the time referred to and can vouch for the genuineness of the claim she makes for compensation as I know she would not prefer any that she did not believe herself entitled to. You would do me a great personal favour if you would kindly consider her informal application sent through me and notify me of the decision that you arrive at.”

**Norquay to Colin Setter (High Bluff ) 13 Dec 1885**: “I got your letter of the 12th November which was laying unanswered during the time I was absent. I have dropped all idea of getting a house this season as it would be too expensive keeping one.” I wrote Mr Muma re your claim. “I also wrote on behalf of your mother and spoke to Tom Mackay, one of the commissioners[,] when in Ottawa….” NPP, Letterbook E, p786

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| G 8724 | C - 1405 | Dec. 28, 1885 | Letter | White, Thomas | Ottawa, Ont. | Norquay, John | Re: North West matters. |

I sent your note with enclosure from your nephew to Langevin, who is acting Superintendent General of Indian Affairs. He is “making a very careful enquiry into matters affecting that part of the Northwest, from which I hope good may come.”

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| G 8724 | C - 1451 | Feb. 8, 1886 | Letter | Setter, C.C. | High Bluff | B. in Law [Norquay, John] | Re: Timber being stolen from Mr. N.'s farm. |

Re the lot I sold you – “I still own 40 acres along side it so yesterday I was informed that parties was taking out house timber from my part so today I went to see & found it to be true & also Mack was taking dry firewood of your & another party drawing oak timber from it.” Mack says you gave him care of it and that he could take all the dry wood he wished. “I and Mack don’t pull together since he left the old man because I told him only for him Alick would got something more from the old man than he did always putting stuff in the old man’s head so in account of this he’s just tried to show to these parties [the woodcutters] that he was the man for looking after your Bush & not me….”

“I am now staying up at your old place now…”

“PS Give them commissioners a stirring up down there & tell them we want our pay before the next rebellion”

Norquay to Colin Setter High Bluff 18 Feb 1886 [E929] “I wish you would inform me who has been taking timber from the quarter section that I purchased and I think I paid dear enough to have the full benefit of all that is on it and I shall make the parties pay pretty sweetly for it. Just give me the names. Your name shall not appear as I will put it in the hands of the lawyers who are in charge of the lot which I disposed of to Mr. Hope of Montreal.”

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| G 8724 | C - 1639 | Feb. 22, 1886 | Letter | Setter, Colin | Portage la Prairie | Norquay, John | Re: Timber stolen & half payment of survey betweenMr. N.'s lot & his own. |

Sheriff Office Central Judicial District stationery (Portage) “My dear Norquay Your letter to hand the party that took oak timber from your lot was Joe Spence’s son Alfred Spence he stoped when I spoke to him he has only taken eight (8) trees of you. I am getting my (40) forty acers survaed [sic] that is a line Between you & me it is customery for each party to pay half I suppose you will kick because I did not notify you there is a party by the name of McDonald cutting on the south east of Sec 25, or just on the line or north of 24. But you cant tell unless you would follow up the old lines and that is a very hard job I would hunt for the old lines between Sec 25 & 24 for you But cant afford to lose the time I am pretty sure it must be on the south east of your sec. as far as I hear if it is on you it is a fine lot of building poplar Yours as ever Colin”

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| G 8705 | C - 1346 | March 13, 1886 | Letter | Setter, C.C. | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Re: Compensation for losses sustained during Rebellion. |

‘My dear Norquay Just a few lines. Alex my brother is in from Battleford & tells me that the most of the parties out there have recd part of the money that they put in to the Govt for their losses caused by the rebellion. Angus Miller got part of his likewise & never lost what I did You see I was only starting & had everything with me I also lost my seed grain which I’m not going to be able to get unless I get help even if I could get half the same as they are doing with the parties out west Did Mama ever write to you about my case since we are all well except Jemima she is been sick very sick this long while back [?] Hoping you are all well & hoping you are going to give the Grits fits please answer Remain Your as Ever C.C. Setter”

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| G 8729 | No # | June 25, 1886 | Letter | Collins, Thos. | Portage la Prairie | Norquay, John | Enclosing copy of Chattel Mortgage. |

“Dear Sir I return you herewith copy of chattel mortgage signed by Colin, as requested by you. The costs in this case have been paid.”

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| G 8724 | C - 1560 | June 22, 1886 | Letter | Merchants' Bank | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Re: Discounting note for Mr. Setter. |

Mr. Setter found the note (re your letter) – we have discounted it for him

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| G 8724 | | C - 1566 | | July 2, 1886 | | Telegram | | Setter, Colin C. | | Portage la Prairie | | Norquay, John | | Asking if Commissioner is at Winnipeg. Replied by telegraph. | |
| G 8724 | | C - 1612 | | July 7 & 13, 1886 | | Letter | | Setter, Colin C. | | Portage la Prairie | | Norquay, John | | Asking if there could be found anyone to buy crop. Also enclosing his mother's claim for losses sustained during N.W. Rebellion. | |

a)Please help us re claim – and I will have a chance to do something for you.

b) crop standing in field – do you know of a buyer? 20/25 acres “of good wheat and twelve acres of Barley also seven acres of oats which I will sell cheap.”

Price - $350 cash. Well fenced. No danger of cattle getting in.

Could take $200 plus a note till 1st Dec.

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| G 8724 | C - 1616 | July 14, 1886 | Letter | Burrows, Acton | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Re: Colin Setter as noxious weeds inspector. |

You suggested Setter to LaRiviere. Portage district last year was in charge of Thomas Moore of Lake Francis and is again this year. He has already made his first tour of inspection….”but of course if you think it necessary his appointment for a portion of the district could be cancelled and Setter appointed though this would mean that the second tour of inspection would not be of very much use as a new man going over the ground could not take up the work like one who was around at the commencement and saw all the pathmasters. Please let me know what you want done.”

Norquay to Colin C Setter, High Bluff 21 July 1886, NPP, Letterbook 4, p41: “My dear Colin” – re yours of 12th “which I found on my desk upon my arrival from the West. I really cannot tell whether a purchase can be secured for your crop.” Will send your offer to Intelligence office “when perhaps somebody may think proper to buy.”

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| G 8725 | C - 1739 | Aug. 23, 1886 | Letter | Setter, Colin C. | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Re: Sending Mr. N. Power of Attorney to draw Rebellion loss money. Answered 30th August. |

“Dear Norquay” will send down power of attorney to get my rebellion losses in a day or two & also my mothers if you will do this for me.

If paid into bank, will the govt give me a license as a hotelkeeper – I can’t afford to furnish the hotel and pay license.

**Norquay to Colin Setter, High Bluff 28 August 1886, NPP, Letterbook 4, p184**: re payment for your rebellion losses – “I do not know when they will be paid. I do not think that a license can be issued without the money being paid. Would you inform me where you intend to keep hotel. I am afraid that you will do yourself more harm than good if you begin dealing in liquor.”

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| G 8725 | C - 1837 | Sept. 16 & 30, 1886 | Two Letters | Setter, Colin C. | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Asking Mr. N. to meet protested note at Merchants' Bank. |

16th: My note comes due on 25th. “I am very sorry to say that I have not got my threshing done yet and there is nobody that will advance money on grain. I suppose that damn govt down below will not allow me any thing for my losses either. I will be able to pay the note just as soon as I can sell grain I am very sorry I cant meet it at present. Yours truly

Colin C. Setter”

PS: If you get anything for our losses from down below let me know. You need not let the old wife know first if the old woman would only do what was right for what I do for them she might lend me the money till I could realize something on my grain for she can get 5 or 6 hundred at any time from Montreal when ever she likes she owes me quite a bit but can’t get it she always the old way got no money”

30th: “Dear Sir Can you meet this note at Merchants Bank that is protested. I cant really do anything with my grain at present I will give you five [?] hundred of my money from the govt which I expect I shall get or which I have a right to get any time.

“Jemima is very unwell She had a little girl on the 23rd Hoping you will oblige

Yours truly Colin C. Setter”

**Norquay to D. Miller Mgr [remainder faded], NPP, 29 September 1886, Letterbook 5, p 22:** “Re Collin C. Setter’s note for $175.00 I would ask for renewal. He has a claim for losses sustained during the rebellion which I thought would have been paid ere now hence my endorsation. I will pay interest & before maturity hope his claim will be settled if you will kindly renew.”

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| G 8725 | C - 1828 | Oct. 26, 1886 | Letter | Setter, C.C. | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Re: Settlement of rebellion losses. |

“My dear Mr. Norquay I suppose there is still no word from the Commissioners regarding our pay for rebellion losses out west….

I felt very sorry to have you pay that note which you endorsed for me. I did everything that was in my power to raise the amount but failed. I even took my horses & buggy down to Winnipeg to sell them But could get nothing for them there is only one party which I can or could get money from But did not like to take it I have so much to make up just thinking you may say after getting all I had taking from me out west I wrote to you but you did not answer I suppose you are mad. Yours sincerely, C.C. Setter

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| G 8726 | C - 2161 | Dec. 28, 1886 | Letter | Setter, Colin C. | High Bluff | Smith, W.P. | Re: Election money. |

You promised to see Mack – didn’t go – please do – I won’t pay the price of horse use. And “your supposed committee told me that if I went down to Rat Portage to see after my team & come back that you would pay half my expenses be good enough to not go back on your promise …”

To Rat Portage -- $10; plus horse hire day of election -- $7; plus “talking Ed Hyndman to vote $2.00”

**LB5: Family, land, finance** JN to Colin C. Setter, Portage la Prairie 5 Apr 1888 [LB5 107] “My dear Colin I have been asked about the registration of 25-11-5. Can you tell me what has become of Alex’s patent as Mr. Hope for whom I bought wants all papers in connection with it placed on record. I wish you would see to this as I think enough was paid for it that all papers should at least be forthcoming. Yours truly…”

**Thomas Norquay (John’s brother)**

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| G 8700 | A - 1276 | Nov. 17, 1882 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas (brother) | Virden, Man. | Norquay, John | Introducing Mr. Carroll. | No Cover |

Notepaper, 1 sheet: “Dear John The bearer is a Mr. Carroll of this place, he wishes to be appointed a J.P. The other whom you appointed (Mr. Scarth) has not yet qualified so we have no J.P. here ….people are necessitated to go to Brandon. I am much better though still troubled a little with short breath. I’ll write you a long letter on Sunday. Train just in. Your loving brother, Tom.”

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| G 8700 | A - 1441 | July 10, 1883 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas [brother] | Virden, Man. | Norquay, John | Re: Family matters. | 2 pp. |

My Dear John Mr. Ogilvie & Mr. McGaw his manager arrived at this place by express yesterday evening to see what inducements there were here for putting up an elevator. I had the pleasure to drive out through the country south with Mr. Ogilvie and a fine jolly fellow he is. I spent a most enjoyable time. He told me many amusing anecdotes in which he and you were the principal actors. For instance the breaking of the spring at Minnedosa and making a poplar sapling do instead

Another: The attempt to go through the marsh or slough at St. James. In telling it he said that he attempted to walk on the pole to unhitch the horses (or something like that) and before he was aware he was into the muck up to the head. I asked ‘did John laugh’ Yes d---- him and what do you think he did next. Why he stripped off his plants shoes &c and waded to the shore, from whence he appeared to enjoy the scene.

He also gave me a graphic account of the new member for Montreal being introduced to the Speaker on Friday night. I can just imagine the time you fellows had. They have gone North West from here this morning, intending to be back in time to take the train for the East. This will be a good place for an elevator. Whether there will be enough grain to be marketed here this fall to justify the expense of course I do not know. But I feel certain from what I hear that there will in the neighbourhood of 250,000 bushels marketed if an elevator is erected here.

When I received your letter re the trip West I felt awfully pleased. I hope you will extend the like invitation when you do go. In fact I shall the [?] invitation good and our trip only adjourned. It is just such a trip I intended to take as soon as I could afford it. I am quite well I hope you and family are the same.

Write and tell me how you all are also any other news you may think would be interesting to me. I am happy that the session is over and you are still sustained, in fact Mr. Ogilvie assures me that after Friday night’s speeches you are stronger than ever such is the earnest wish of

Your affectionate Brother Tom

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| G 8701 | B - 402 | Dec. 10, 1883 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man. | Norquay, John | Asking what coal will be sold for at Virden wholesale and retail. Replied 14 December. See L.B."D". |  |

“Dear John Please write & let us know as soon as possible what will be the prices (retail & wholesale) of coal at this place. WE are 180 miles nearer the coal fields than Winnipeg and 48 nearer than Brandon and we naturally expect to get a little cheaper here than it is sold there. I shall not order any for this place until I hear from you. I think if it was sold at a reasonable figure I could sell some here but I can do nothing until I get a price list I am quite well. Yours truly Thos Norquay”

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| G 8701 | B - 479 | Dec. 20, 1883 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man. | Jack [Norquay, John] | County Clerkship. | 2 pp. |

“Dear Jack In thinking over the matter of the county court clerkship I think it would be better that I should not be appointed to the office. I had spoken to Mr. Cain to accept the office telling him I would recommend him and on second thoughts would rather not accept. I shall post him in the business and receive all the emoluments as long as I wish to do so. I have written to Mr. Woodworth recommending Cain and as it is the fees I want and not the office, it will serve me better than being appointed. I rec’d your letter re price of coal. I am quite well shall not be home till after New Year some time. Would have written to you before but no trains running. Wishing you a Merry Xmas and a happy New Year, Your affte brother Tom.

P.S. Remember me to all your family on Xmas day and give them a New Year’s kiss for me. T.N.

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| G 8701 | B - 455 | Dec. 31, 1883 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man.F1676 | Norquay, John | Stating a car load of coal is there and asking Mr. N. to pay freight charges. |  |

To JN Prest Saskatchewan Coal Mining Co

“A carload of coal here pay freight charges sixty seven dollars fifty”

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| G 8704 | C - 1021 | May 29, 1884 | Telegram | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man. | Norquay, John | Stating he will hold office for 2 years in August. Dealt with by Mr. N. |

“Will hold office two years from August eighty two if not paying will look elsewhere”

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| G 8703 | C - 405 | Aug. 4, 1884 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man. | Brother [Norquay, John] | Private matters. |

“My Dear Brother Your very welcome letter came to hand by today’s mail and I was happy to hear that Neetim [my sister in law, your wife] was out on a pleasure trip I hope her old friend the sick headache won’t claim acquaintance with her this time but that she will enjoy her visit. I wrote to Keetim [your sister in law – my wife] by today’s mail by the time you receive this she will be in receipt of my letter. I was sorry to learn from a letter I recd from her on Saturday that the Twins had the measles. I hope to be able to go home soon and see you all. [translations by Ovide Mercredi: email to gf, 9 Nov 2013]

I am happy to state that I have kept to my resolve to quit the cursed drink and once the resolve is made I find the craving leaving me. The crops all look well up this way. There is a great deal under crop in this section of the country. There is a talk of another elevator being built at this place by Mr. McBain. They want a bonus in the way of wheat from the farmers and they seem willing to grant it. When you have leisure drop me a line. You do not know what a boon it is, give me the general news. I shall do the same to you. You say you are a green widower. I have been so long from home that I almost feel like a yellow widower if such a case ever was. Since quitting the drink I have been working like a good fellow. If you have a spare copy of the Times send it along. There are a good many Grits here but today I and another man were taking stock and I think we can down them (to use a vulgarism). Sheriff Clements is here today selling those blasted Plummer Waggons I foolishly went into last year. I shall not conclude this letter until I have had a good chat with him when I may have some more news to communicate.

I have had a chat with Clements and he wishes to be kindly remembered to you. He says he has lots of horses now and if you should come to Brandon, do not fail to call on him. He is living in Woodworth’s house on First St. Walker and his family are all quite well. The Judge is looking and feeling well. I think I have now exhausted my budget of news therefore will conclude this letter with best wishes to you and all the family. Your loving brother, Tom.

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| G 8703 | C - 429 | Sept. 26, 1884 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man. | Brother Jack [Norquay, John] | County Court Clerk for County of Dennis. |

Dear Brother Jack I wrote to you some time ago anent the appointment of a county court clerk for the County of Dennis, recommending as reminding you that I suggested M. John Cain to the position. He is my Deputy as Registrar. I hear that Mr. F. Scarth is applying for the office. Under no circumstance have him appointed.

He has insulted our mother’s name. Will explain when I see you. I am well barring a bad cold. Write or telegraph whether the appointment is made. If Scarth appointed rescind have reasons. Your brother Tom

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| G 8702 | C - 331 | Oct. 8, 1884 | Telegram | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man. | Norquay, John | Asking who County Clerk Dennis is who has been lately appointed. No action. |

“Hear County Court clark Dennis appointed who is he answer”

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| G 8703 | C - 455 | Oct. 9, 1884 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | Virden, Man. | "Brother" [Norquay, John] | Re: the discharge of his duties. |

“Dear Brother Mr. Howard was here yesterday evening and most likely will report to you and the Government that I have been very derelict in my duties as Registrar.

I have to acknowledge that I have been, and must also say that Mr. Howard has been most kind and considerate towards me and whatever the outcome of his report may be I can have no other feelings but respect for him. In all or nearly all cases there I have not immediately attended to the parties the fees were not prepaid and as you know I was not obliged to attend thereto, more especially as I have been out of pocket when I had to pay the 10% to the Government. I have had a good talk today with my deputy, Mr. Cain and we are both to start in to the books in earnest. If you can do it give me a chance to have them posted before I send in my resignation. I have had a very bad cold for the last month and have not felt fit for anything but am thankful to say feel much better today. Think will be all right in a day or two. Kindest love & best wishes to Meetim and all the family. Your loving brother Tom”

[Additional page:]

“Strictly private Dear Jack: if possible I wish to hold this office for another quarter so as to have the books posted before I leave. If I resign I wish my deputy appointed to the office. Tom”

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| G 8703 | C - 424 | Dec. 10, 1884 | Letter | Kennedy, W.T.B. Registry Office | Virden, Man. | Norquay, John | Answering letter of the 8th inst. |

“My dear Mr. Norquay In answer to your letter of the 8th I would say that Mr. Norquay is still in Virden – not doing very much I am afraid. I see very little of him & when I do he invariably tells me that he is winding up some business matters & intends to go down shortly. On the whole he is keeping pretty straight I think. He assisted me a great deal the first week I was here making me snug in the new office which has been fitted up & always assists me with his advice when I am in doubt as to a matter. But he keeps a great deal to himself & I only see him at rare intervals. He has been here ever since I came. Yours sincerely….

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| G 8705 | C - 1119 | May 7, 1885 | Letter | Irvine, Wm., Assessor | Almasippi P.O.,Boyne MB | Norquay, THOMAS | Assessment which Mr. N. says is too high. No action. |

Tom complained of his “extraordinary high assessment” -- the assessor replies here – lower than surrounding municipalities, and yes, you couldn’t sell it for that value – “it is a well known fact, that no land here, will bring its actual market value at present…. I might also state that when the government Inspector values lands here, that are nearly all swamp, at three dollars and three dollars and a quarter per acre no person can complain of their assessment. In this municipality there are some thousands of acres of land locked up in the hands of speculators, and no doubt held at a high price, which has a very detrimental effect on the settlement and welfare of this country, and something must be done to settle these lands….”

“PS: By the government Inspector valuing these swamp lands at three dollars per acre it lost us one actual settler last week.”

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| G 8728 | C - 2856 | Jan. 9, 1887 | Letter | Norquay, Thomas | St. Andrews | Norquay, John | Re: Margaret Mowat`s claim for Scrip. |

[neat script] “Dear John …” encloses letters from Dept of Interior on the claim “advanced by Uncle Tommy for scrip to be allowed the heirs of his mother Margaret Mowat.”

Dept of Interior’s letter to Margaret McDonald suggests that Thomas Mowat must have given in his mother’s name as Margaret Mowat. “Her name was not Margaret but Mary. Whereas Uncle Tommy’s mother’s name was Margaret and from both letters it appears that the claim of the heirs of Margaret Mowat is allowed no mention being made of Mary Mowat. ….It would be well to see that the scrip allowed to the heirs of Margaret Mowat should be sent to the proper parties….Uncle Tommy never received the scrip $40.00 mentioned in the letter sent you from the Dept (copy enclosed). Uncle Tommy wishes me to send you these copies as you had interested yourself in the matter and as you had been written in reference thereto. Your brother Tom”

He encloses copies of two official letters, and certifies that they are ‘true copy’

**8 John Lazarus Norquay**

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| A - 256 | Nov. 28, 1879 | Letter | Norquay, John | Halsford | Norquay, John | Asking Mr. N. to settle bill for $110 - and he will settle it in 3 months. |

‘Mr Norquay Sir as I have a note coming due on the first of next month to the amount of one hundred and ten dollars to be paid to Westbrook and Co would you kindly settle for me and I will pay you in three months with intrest [sic]. I have begun threshing the thresher is doeing well I hope to make money if you want security I will send you a scrip which I intend to put on my premtion [pre-emption] if you doe you will greatly oblige yours

Truly

John Norquay [John Lazarus Norquay]

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| G 8698 | A - 632 | July 22, 1880 | Letter | Norquay, John [Lazarus] | Minnedosa, Man. | Norquay, John | Friendly letter on different subjects & appointment of Indian farm instructor. |  |

"Mr Norquay Sir I write you a few lines to let you know that we are still in the land of the living and well hoping this may find you and yours in same I have been up to the Birds Tail Creek and all around that sec [sic: section?]of country it is a grand country for settlement say from the big bend of the Saskatchewan to valley river from thence to shell river all through to the Touchwood hills if you get this sec of country in the Province you will have the grandest Province in the Dominion in a little while people are squatting by the hundreds through this part of the country squatting has been forbidden but in my opinion it has incouraged people to dare – so Minnedosa is going ahead it is being quite a village Odana [Idama?] is rather in the background at present as Minnedosa mills will not suply them lumber[.] great times between the two cityes I have writen time and again to Joe but never got answer whither they be living or dead you may have heard that poor old Bill died in the fore part of may nothing strange to tell you only Tanner left after giveing his wife an unmeceful beating Leaving her for dead Reports say he has gone to the States Leaving his property in the hands of other men and by the way I wish you to doe a favour that is to recommend me as indian farmer at the Brids tail Creek you know that I can speak the Lang and a good farmer the Indians doe not like Chamberlin they say he knows no more about farming then themselves. I was told they wear putting a protest against him if so please speak a good word for me also would you be kind enough to find out if I could get land out heare for my children in place of what they Have in the province excuse me for intruding on your good nature closing I wish you and yours all prospertity [sic] I remain yours truly John Norquay"

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| G 8699 | A - 1139 | Oct. 12, 1882 | Letter | Norquay, John | Minnedosa, Man. | Norquay, John | About land and 2nd Entry. | No Cover |

This is JN’s cousin John Lazarus Norquay, scrawl, lined cheap notepaper:

“Dear Sir I have just returned from the Shell saw the Bolton sec as far as I can judge their [sic]is only 80 acers [sic] of dry land on the half sec and three parts stone the best site for a town is on the cross side of the river on sec 3 T 23 R 29 and on sec 11 T 23 R 29 [.] I have chosen sec 10 butting on to 11 their is a nice valley runs up thrugh the south hlf of 10 the only one that is on the cross side of the river that a road could be made with little truble Bolton told me he was never accross [sic] to see how the valley or the land looked like I did not get an intry Mr Belch thinks I should write to the minister of the Interior get you to write he thinks it right that I should get a second intry and would have done so only for a certain oath to be taken on second intry he did not know what kind of an oath to give me he took the number of the Lot he and his assistant and promised to hold it for me untill I found out from the minister would you kindly write for me I told all the particulars when I saw yo but you might have forgot I came to this place in 1874 July 9 and on 4 Sep 1878 intered and on May 7 1880 bought said land I tried to inter one month after taking up the land then three months after I offered to leave the money for my interance fee and was not accepted because the report of the survey of this part of the country had not come to the office please doe me the favour and write for me and if I cannot doe as much for you somebody else will excuse my bad penmanship for I can hardly make it out but no doubt you will as you are a better schollar we are all well hoping you and yours are in the same injoyment of good health Yours respectfully

John Norquay

Cow Break a Barn doar gemey [?]

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| G 8724 | C - 1535 | Jan. 7, 1886 | Letter | Norquay, John | Asseppie[sic] Man. | Norquay, John and ladies | Claim on Gov't. cut off by first survey re: price of land around Winnipeg & establishment of a Colony. |

Hon John Dear Sir I drop you a line to let you know that I am still in the land of the liveing [sic] and well hoping this will find you and yours in the injoyment [sic] of good health I am going down to see you about the end of this month I have a claim of the Goverment [sic] for land I was deprived of by the first survey in the country if you remember I bought land from John Sanderson consisting of about 288 acres and was left with only 35 acres I look to you as a friend and a brother to press my claim when I come down as I think I have a right to the land that cost me $250 two hundred and fifty dollars would you kindly let me know my chance of geting [sic] scrip instead I am sorry to say times are very hard in this part of the country I put in 40 acres last spring and did not get so much as feed a chicken

I doe[sic] not believe in this part of the country for farmeing[sic] the frost comes on so early yet I hope their[sic] will be a change what would be the chance of getting land for a colony there is an inglishman[sic] hear[here] would like to know as he has a lot of friends he would felch out and settle a colony weare[sic] he to get land as a colony and knew what he could obtain it for would you kindly give me an answer so doeing[sic] you will greatly oblige yours truly, John Norquay” [John Lazarus Norquay]

**Norquay to John Lazarus Norquay (Asseppie), 20 January 1886, NPP, Letterbook E, E884-885:** “My dear old fellow, I am in receipt of your letter of the 7th inst requesting me to interest myself on your behalf in presenting your claim for the lots you were deprived of.

“I do not know what your chances would be unless I were better informed of the details of your claim. If you will write me full particulars I will look after the matter next time I go East. I regret that you were so unfortunate as to have lost all your crop by frost. In reference to the colonization scheme suggested by your English friend I think that the Government would not favor such a scheme inasmuch as those that were immigrated sometime ago did not prove very successful, while I have no doubt they would be only too happy to afford every facility to any number of immigrants choosing to settle in the province or the territories. I do not think that they would be prepared to set apart any portion of land as a reserve for these parties unless they had the most satisfactory assurances that they would be settled immediately.

“Hoping that you and your family are well[,] I remain[,]Yours very truly John Norquay”

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| G 8724 | C - 1419 | Feb. 23, 1886 | Letter | Norquay, John | Assessippi | Norquay, John | Re: Land sold him by John Sanderson. |

Cousin John: “Asseppie [sic] Feb 23 1886 Mr Norquay Sir Yours of the 15 inst[sic] came duly to hand I have no date as to the time I wrote to Dennis about my Land[.] I left a letter he wrote to me with Mr Moss I have written to Moss to forward it to you if he has it yet[.] I believe John Sanderson has got a copy of the papers or title he gave me when he sold me the Land – as for me I lost the papers long since[.] John Sanderson is at Fairford at present so it is dificult [sic] for me to get those papers but I have written to him to send me them if they will be any good[.] I doe not expect the same property back but hope to get scrip or something of the kind. I remain yours truly John Norquay” [John Lazarus Norquay]

**9 The Letters of William and Eleanor Kennedy**

Vera Fast “Cripps, Eleanor Eliza” and E. C. Shaw “Kennedy, William” *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*

**“Information from Mrs. J. E. McAllister, March 9, 1946” file 4, Cooke Papers, Archives of Manitoba**

According to **Ellen Cooke’s note** recording her interview with Ellen Norquay McAllister: [The Norquay family] “had lived at Parkdale as long as Ellen could remember. In 1885 moved to Hallet Street from Parkdale. Double house on Hallet Street, with J.G. Moore, Police Magistrate, in the other half. After Premier Norquay’s death the family moved into a smaller house on Hallet Street. “In the double house on Hallet Street Premier Norquay and Mrs. Kennedy (the Duchess) played cribbage upstairs. Their table was placed in the doorway of a sitting room which was kept warm for the invalid Mrs. Norquay. Mrs. Kennedy sat in the sitting room to keep warm and Premier Norquay sat in the hall to keep cool.” Two typed sheets: signed “Ellen Cooke”

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| G 8730 | Misc Govt | n.d. | List | [No Name] |  |  | List of Unpatented lots in St Peters Parish. |

Heading: “List of Lots unpatented to the old Residents of St Peter’s Parish”

“The above named parties were in peaceable possession of their lands prior to the 15th July 1870” – lot #, name, and then a pencil annotation “appn” – meaning application had been made, presumably.

Eg: “Lot 65 Mary Norquay widow of Henry Norquay appn”

AGB Bannatyne possesses lots 117, 225 and the point on west side of river

“Wm Kennedy” possesses “lot 226 appn.”

**Manitoba Order-in-Council #1, 4 Jan 1879**: William Kennedy appted Stipendiary Magistrate on recommendation of JN [see also “Orders-in-Council, EC0003A, GR1530, G25” – the actual o-i-c, including a letter from Kennedy in St. Andrews to Provincial Secretary, resigning his apptmt as “member of the Board of Education” – “a position the important duties of which from distance & other causes I am sorry to say I have been able so inadequately to perform”]

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| G 8701 | B - 14 | Jan. 4, 1879 | Order in Council copy [extract] | McBeth, J. | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Date Captain Kennedy's appointment. S.M. for County of Lisgar. | No Cover |

Handwritten “Order in Council Dated 4th January 1879 Portion of order reads: “On the recommendation of the Hon. John Norquay that William Kennedy of the Parish of St. Andrews Gentleman be appointed a Stipendiary [magistrate] for the County of Lisgar vice The Hon. Donald Gunn deceased JMB CEC [?? Unsure re all these initials]

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| G 8697 | A - 321 | March 1, 1879 | Letter | Kennedy, Capt. William | St. Andrews, Man. | Norquay, John | How the Dom. have used this Prov. and using it. Urging Mr. N. to be firm in his demand for "better terms" for Manitoba. |

“My Dear Norquay, I wrote you the other day by a private hand to Winnipeg but I write again today in case my first letter may not reach you & to repeat that you cannot too strongly insist on ‘better terms’ – terms that will not only put us on a par with other Provinces but give to us its inhabitants that place among others which we have a right to have that is in the matter of holding public offices. The Dominion has assumed the right to have the whole dictation in these matters & so long as we allow her to take this position she will continue to impose on us the political scum of other Provinces, thus acting towards us exactly in the way that England acted towards her colonies till her colonists were driven to take up arms against her. Insist on it that we have Fort Wm & York Factory as ports of our own. We have a right to these as we made them what they are. Rather than give these up refer the matter to the arbitration of other British Provinces say of Newfoundland & British Columbia. Let us have the management of our own public lands. A subsidy that shall be commensurate with the crying wrongs the Domn has done us in her cooping us Territorially, Financially, Judicially, Aboriginally, Commercially, Politically, Socially & Morally. In having ‘bought’ us when the article purchased was as Bogus as the Stock of the Glasgow Bank. In short insist on having terms equal to that of the blustering Ontario & let them know at Ottawa that we have given more to the Dominion than ten Ontarios.

The Indian problem is one of the most important with which the Dominion has to deal. It is veritably to make a spoon or spoil a horn & already it is as plain as mid day sun that the horn is to be spoilt for he (the Indian) is no longer an element of progress as he was before but a mere parasite of civilization & just because so far those have been placed over him (I of course except Mr. Inspector McColl the only man that I have yet known to take an interest in the red man) that class of men who have no sympathy with him & would rather have his treaty dollars than see them used for the Indian’s true elevation. That day is certainly coming when the Saskatchewan will again be desolated with a smallpox but this time it will be smallpox the virus of which comes from the Dominion. These are some of the greater evils that the Dominion has done so now for the minor ones. It gave to the perjured swindler Dr. Schultz the means of buying his way to political power, as one result of this one of his nominees gets into the Land Office in Winnipeg & forthwith Scrip passes out of the proper hands & the man who steals them goes scot free perhaps only to await a still better opportunity for doing the same in a better field. It is to the disgrace of the Dominion that such men should have thus the opportunity to multiply themselves; when such me have the right to nominate those to important positions that are birds of a similar feather with themselves is it any wonder that England should at this moment have two “Sick Men” on her hands? that in the west being the more inexcusable because being not yet four decades old is already paying interest with borrowed capital though it has the half of a continent to plan its pranks on & where there is neither a Russia nor a Germany to Bulldoze her from time to time. The last mail brings the intelligence that the Honorable W.R. Bown is now a commissioner along with one of the McArthurs to inquire into the McKenzie delinquencies. What are we to expect from the man that the other day was so conveniently on hand to act as the Administrator of the Gordon Gordon estate of the value of 37 ½ cents? Two Commissioners no lest must preside over this important business. Does not this look as if one Commissioner was set to watch over the other? I have an expectation that from looking after the Nixon business these Commissioners will next be appointed to inquire into the land office swindles. Scant justice may then be expected but I will give up writing on this strain as it is fairly sickening to know that we have to sit under such a state of rotten things.

Will you do me the kindness to find out Captn C.W. Allen who was lately land agent in Winnipeg & acted as such for me. He has all the particulars about the lots I have for sale. A Mr. Henry Loken of 38 Rideau Street, Ottawa, has written to me wishing to buy some Half Breed Grants in the Railway reserve to the east of this. I will write to Mr. Allen myself but I ask this of you in case my letter does not reach him. I will also write to Mr. Loken himself but it would be so much better to have a man on the spot & such is Capt Allen to interest himself in this matter. Please say to Captn Allan that I will address my letter to him to the Post Office.

While you are down would it not be well for you to ascertain if there is such a thing working successfully as a Farmers portable flour mill – a mill that would grind us good common flour & thus make the Farmer independent of the exaction made on him for grinding his wheat – a matter that takes from one third to one fourth of his entire crop & which if continued will ever keep his nose to the grindstone.

I hear that Mrs. Norquay continues mending & that the rest of the family are well. The Concert will come off on Friday next which will be a heavy day for all engaged in it. It is to wind up with a Ball at Jack Allan’s to which Mrs. K & the girls are invited. Thus the wheel keeps turning round but meanwhile times seem harder than ever. Hoping you are enjoying yourself & that you will come back well & with good terms, I remain, very truly yrs, Wm Kennedy”

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| A - 347 (a) | March 17, 1879 | Letter | Kennedy, Wm. | St. Andrews, Man. | Norquay, John | Enclosing a letter for Sir John re: stolen scrip. |

"My Dear Norquay Enclosed is a letter for Sir John A McDonald which I hope you will take an opportunity to present to him whenever you can approach him when at leisure. He is represented to be so busy as not to be able to attend to his business or rather has so much to do that he cannot overtake it all. I have already written to him about the stolen scrip but he has paid no attention to it. Your own late sister Mrs. James Ballenden[']s was one of those stolen. I was told last week there is to be no redress for this stolen scrip & that we must just sit down with the loss which would be a disgrace to the Govt. As regards Albert Todds lot I dare say you know all about it. The Government have all the particulars of this lot & it has been valued by the Government valuators Messrs Pearce & Nelson. Depend on it whatever value they put on this lot it will not be in favor of the ‘Breed.’ Any way you may tell Sir John that when I arbitrated in the case of Joseph Johnston’s estate Wood the lawyer charged with the case was for himself $3,000 for only one third the quantity & by valuing the lands in question at the rate that Schultz charged for land at the same spot.

You will also have some knowledge of the way in which the stone was taken from my brother Philip’s property & with which the long dam was constructed at the St. Andrew’s Rapids. If Govt’s pay for these things in Ontario we have a right to them here & please therefore do all you can in the matter.

Respecting an Indian Agency tell Sir John I have won it more fairly than any ten men who are connected with the Indn Dept. I seek it not as a sinecure but to recover a class of British subjects who were elements of progress before Confederation so ruthlessly took hold of them but have since become as I told you in my last the parasites of civilization & who with the treatment they are receiving are being highly prepared for that virus which coming from Ottawa will make & that very soon the valley of the Saskatchewan a valley of death & pestilence – a pestilence of two kinds – a natural as well as a moral one.

I am writing to catch the Post so you will excuse my saying more just now. Your family are well but I regret to tell you poor Bella Setter the wife of young Adam McDonald died suddenly yesterday & is likely to be buried today. She had got safely over child birth but some trouble stept in some days after & took away this usually strong & healthy girl as she appeared. Hoping that in the midst of life we may always remember that death is always at hand & therefore that we diligently prepare for it I remain, very truly yrs Wm Kennedy

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| A - 347 (b) | March 18, 1879 | Letter | Kennedy, Wm. | St. Andrews, Man. | Macdonald, Sir John A. | Re: Scrip & land matters. [Edited by Norquay, J.]. |

To the Right Hon. Sir John A McDonald, K.C.B[?] Minister of the Interior, Ottawa

Dear Sir

When the Hon. David Mills was Minister of the Interior I had occasion to represent to that Gentleman that Albert Todd of St Clements, now in the Saskatchewan, had given me a power of attorney to sell a lot of land to the Government which he has at Selkirk, in that Parish, & for which he had 3 years since notice from the Governt that it was required for Railway purposes. The Telegraph to the Saskatchewan in operation over this lot & most if not all of the wood on it, has been appropriated by those working there. Mr Pearce the Government valuator of Lands has already sent down his report of its value. May I therefore beg to be informed as to how much & when the Govt will pay for this land.

Albert Todd has now been sent from his home nearly three years & has had to pay 12 percent for the money which he has had borrowed to enable him to find a new home.

Some time since I had the honor to address Mr. Pearce &c (see above) relative to some scrip belonging to myself & others & for which so far there has been no compensation, a matter occasioning much inconvenience. (Strikeout: ~~on the matter of Scrip stolen from myself & others~~)

More than four years ago I sent in an application (for two hundred dollars (to the Government) for stone taken from the property of my late brother (strikeout~~: of whose children I am guardian~~.) for the construction of the wing dam at the Rapids of St. Andrew’s which is still unnoticed.

Begging that these matters may receive your earliest attention, I remain, Respectfully yours, Wm. Kennedy

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| A - 250 | March 21, 1879 | Telegram |  | Norquay, J. [from] | Ottawa | To:Walker, D.M. Attorney-General | Re: Manitoba demands discussed Monday. |

JN’s wire to Walker in Wpg – handwritten copy on Dominion Telegraph form:

“Delegates meet committee of Council on Monday to discuss fully Manitoba demands Ask Captain Kennedy of St Andrews if he authorized Sinclair to draw scrip from Land Office Winnipeg J Norquay”

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| A - 235 | Dec. 2, 1879 | Letter | Thomson, James | Quays, [South Ronaldshay] Orkney | Norquay, John | Asking Mr. N.'s influence on behalf of his son who is shortly coming out to this country and other family matters. |

“My dear sir

I duly recd your very kind letter of Sept 29th in which you mention the death of two Orcadians, the end of Mr. John Tait was a very sad and melancholy one, after having spent such a long and useful life….I have made some enquiry about him but so far as I can ascertain he did not belong to our isle, he must have come from some part of the “Mainland or ‘Pomona” Was also very sorry to hear of the early death of Miss Lizzie Bannatyne which I saw noticed about the same time in the ‘Edinburgh Scotsman,’ I knew her grandfather but does not recollect her Father, he and the Family I understand left our Island very soon after his father’s death and Mr B went out early in the H.B. Co.’s service. Your reference to the Kennedies is very interesting to me having gone to school in 1829 or 1830 with William, George, Roderick and their nephew Alexr Isbister, who has been long known a very distinguished & successful London educationist, but as my acquaintance terminated with them nearly half a century ago & as I was then only 9 or 10 years of age I fear their recollection of me cannot be very distinct. Capt Kennedy was last in Orkney in the spring of 1851 when about taking charge of the expedition in search of Franklin, & I think he came over here to see his cousin Mr. John B. Allan of Berwick but as I happened to be at a marriage party that evening I missed seeing my former schoolmate, he had two elder brothers named John & Alexr down here getting their education also, but that was before my day. I may now mention that my only daughter was married to William, eldest surviving son of Mr J.B. Allan the Captain’s cousin, in June last. I now enclose a note for Capt K which you will kindly please send to his address as I presume from your letter he is still an inhabitant of this lower world.

I would now take the liberty of mentioning the matter of my son James proceeding to Manitoba, which I have already indicated. ….[Knowing no one in Manitoba] I have thought of using the liberty of soliciting your influence in so far that on his arrival at Winnipeg you might kindly aid him in getting him in some situation as Clerk in a Bank, Insurance, or Mercantile office, he can only expect something subordinate to begin with but from the way he has been trained and his strict attention to business if spared in health he would soon rise….” And what time of year should he come? And should he get a “through ticket on arrival in America? …. Yours very faithfully, James Thomson

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| G 8698 | A - 626 | July 6, 1880 | Letter | Kennedy, George | St. Andrews, Man. | Norquay, John | Asking Mr. N. to pay A. Strang, Esq. $20.00 on his account. |  |

"Please pay to A. Strang Esq the sum of twenty dollars and charge the same to my account and oblige yours very truly…"

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| G 8697 | A - 430 | Dec. 9, 1880 | Letter | Cockran, Emma | St. Peters | Norquay, John | Asking for a loan of $2 or $3. |  |

"My Dear Sir Please sir may it please your immediate attention to grant my request in sending you this letter as you will remember dear friend you saw me last treaty you told me if I had the mony from my sister Mary Kennedy from London England so I told you I had them now please tell me if you received any letter from her since, now dear Sir, I tell now I am very poorly my son is sick Adam and the other he went off in the lake last November is not back yet. Now dear sir please I ask your assistance I will pay you back please send down $2 or 3 dollars it would give me a great help about Bella my grandchild tell me how they are please send me a letter and put the money in if you grand [grant] my request send my compliments to your wife and children

I am your truly Emma Cockran Poor Widow

Dear Sir please send me answer soon as possible [sic]

**Invitations to Kennedys for the opening of Legislative Assembly**:

in 1873 *The Manitoban*  8 February 1873;

in 1885:JNorquay to guests, including Captain Kennedy, 17 March 1885 in NPP, E - 291.

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| G 8699 | A - 810 | June 28, 1881 | Letter | Thomson, James | Quoys Orkneys | Kennedy [Capt?] | Friendly letter. | 2 pp. |

Fine tightly-knit writing: 'My dear Kennedy I find I have now so far delayed writing you that I scarcely know where to find a starting point, my last note informed you of the sad death of Mrs. Sutherland….her dear baby left behind is getting on nicely & is nursed by her sister Mrs. Dr. Dewar. Shortly thereafter I rcd your excellent & valuable letter of date December 7th which I have read many times over; and both it and the others I have carefully preserved. Somehow there is a kind of flavor about them I relish greatly – You mention the danger arising to the Province from the large influx of worthless wretches being the very dregs of Society from all nations in the Old Country & Elsewhere, who on arriving give loose rein to their unhallowed passions and make a sort of Pandemonium in their neighborhood, this is deeply to be deplored – but it is also very pleasing to know what large numbers of the middle class also find their way thither, & that under God's overruling Providence & Salutary Laws there is great hope your Country will at no very distant day attain a very high position.

I told you how I enjoyed my visits last year to Stroma [island in Pentland Firth between Scotland and Orkney] & Hoy -- & that from the former place I had carried away certain roots from what once was the veritable Garden of the celebrated 'Kennedy of Karmark', then Lord of the soil, on reaching home I put it in my own garden & it kept alive & has now grown a height of 12 inches. I am no florist but think it belongs to the 'Fern' tribe. I inclose a leaf, as a curiosity. This ancient garden is now laid out to grass, yet some mementoes of its former days occasionally appear, it stands adjacent to the ruins of the old Mansion House, a ward now for the people. The man who now occupies the land on which the above stands, & who entertained us is named Allan, hailing originally from 'Swona.' [also island between Scotland and Orkney]. There is living with him a batchelor, named William Norquay, brother to Eden Norquay of 'Port Dover' who met your worthy Premier at that place in 1878 on his way to 'Ottawa' (these Norquays claim some distant relationship to the Premier) & curiously enough the said Eden writes home that this brother Wm bears a very striking likeness to their honored Chieftain of Manitoba!

[more on Kennedy family links – for Jean – many relatives mentioned]

"I had the exquisite pleasure some time ago of receiving an admirable letter from Mr. Bannatyne on various subjects but all deeply interesting….By the papers he sent, I was very glad to see the kindly recognition given by the Provincial Magnates to the 'Premier' for his past services in promoting the interests of Manitoba, somehow I now look upon the distinguished man as one of ourselves and his connection with Orkney as being one of her most illustrious offshoots – all honor to the worthy man I read his speech with very much interest."

Our son is doing well at Portage, is pleased with the country, which is developing so rapidly, his old enemy asthma is not bothering him, he has gained 17 pounds, attends church. … "it really appears to me his prospects are much better than his two cousins (Donald's sons) who preceded him to the province of Taranaki in New Zealand …. They are engaged in cattle raising on a farm which they have taken out of the bush – but the Colony is still in a most depressed condition. – In a recent letter from James he mentions having had the pleasure of seeing & conversing with a very aged 'Patriarch and his spouse,' he thinks considerably on the wrong side of 90 years, they hail from St Andrews so you may know them, both were hearty & hale, his name is McKay and is father of John D. McKay, one of the leading men of the Portage, he writes this 'aged veteran' has a most astonishing memory – he came out to York Factory when a mere boy and spent the best part of his time there in the Cos service, he could distinctly name numbers of Orcadians whom he had known about the end & beginning of the Century, among many others our Father's name was quite familiar to him, He had likewise served for many years under Governor Tomison the Founder of our Academy! What a marvel of a man!"

…write us, regards to Mrs. Kennedy yourself and family…J.W. Thomson

[superscript: JN's secretary has written on the letter: "James Thomson" – obviously Kennedy loaned the letter to JN, and it stayed with his papers]

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| G 8699 | A - 1136 | Oct. 11, 1882 | Letter | Kennedy W. | St. Andrews, Man. | Norquay, John | Re: Mrs. Hodgins. | No Cover |

Kennedy’s usual scrawl, half in pen, half pencil

“My Dear Mr Norquay The Bearer of this is a Mrs. Hodgins ( a relative of ours) who should be separated from her husband because he is a drunkard, beats his wife, does nothing to provide for this wife, but uses her property for his own purposes, wishes her to make all her property over to him, & is in my estimation a case coming under the 43rd chapter of the Con. St. of Manitoba. Will you put her in a way by which she may be able to do this. She tells me Archibald & Howell are her lawyers so if you recommend the application of the above act you might tell her to give her case to them. I have already fined her husband for selling grog to Indians for Bullock. Yours truly Wm Kennedy”

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| G 8700 | A - 1425 | March 4 and 12, 1883 | 2 Copies of draft Letter | Norquay, John | City (Winnipeg) | Thompson, Mr. | Re: Personal matters. Incomplete. | Copy 2 pp. |

March 4: “My dear Mr Thomson Your very kind and welcome letter of the 17th ult with extracts from your son’s letter is just to hand.” Thanks for your interest in my success. I hope you get to meet Mr Bannatyne – “a prince of good fellows & no name stands higher in this province for probity & honesty …& the best of it nobody envies him the reputation he has built up nor the fortune he has acquired. Captain Kennedy your old friend is beginning to show signs of decay but the old fire flames up now and again still, despite his weakness.”

March 12 -- same first page, another draft – then: “I hear very often from parties around the Portage of your son and he is highly spoken of by everybody….

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| G 8700 | A - 1426 | Feb. 17, 1883 | Letter | Thompson, James | Quoys, So Ronaldshay Orkney, Scotland | Norquay, John | Letter of congratulations generally - on election - on his position. |  |

“My dear Mr Norquay I’m delighted with news of your election on 22 Jan “by a very decided and triumphant majority…” This “has indeed given myself and all friends here very great satisfaction …” – congratulations. “The great progress and prosperity which has been made by your Province since you first became its Premier has not been equalled in any other part of the Dominion, or the United States and it is most devoutly to be hoped for that during your present term of office this condition of things may be marked by even still greater prosperity…”

Our nephew went to NZ – “I think he made a very great mistake – his three years experience of NZ has certainly not been of the most pleasant kind, and no prospect of any improvement. His father left him considerable money and so appears he wants to keep the world easy.”

“I am glad to say that our dear boy took a great liking to the country since he first entered it and as time wears on it would appear to strengthen, he has already done much better than he could possible done here for many years – [sends extract from son’s letter of 12 Jan – see following]

“I may here mention that I had a very precious letter some time ago from my dear old friend Capt. Kennedy on different subjects and was truly sorry to learn that his health is now so very much affected by rheumatism & that too without much prospect of recovery. I would imagine that his polar expeditions of some 30 years ago have had something to do in causing this. I may here remark if there is any earthly wish more another I would have gratified, it would be a personal interview with this worthy ‘dear old man,’ & that too of his honoured friend & our countryman the Premier of Manitoba and sometimes wonder if this wish shall ever be gratified!!It is not quite impossible.

I am now advised that Mr. A.G.B. Bannatyne has been for some time in London and that he may be expected in Orkney further on in spring. Should I have the pleasure of seeing him here I shall do no less than point out to him, where at once stood the home of your forefathers finely situated in close proximity to the Pentland Firth.

I shall now close with earnest wishes for your continued prosperity together with that of your good lady & family. And believe me yours very faithfully James Thomson

P.S. Our second son John will proceed to Manitoba in the course of two months or thereby & I believe the rest will follow as they grow up.”

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| G 8700 | A - 1460 | 1883 [?] | Memo | re Capt Kennedy ‘83 | [No Location] |  | Re: Captain Kennedy. | No Cover |

“Memorandum re Capt Kennedy ‘83” is written on the back of a small scrap of paper:

on the front:

Capt Kennedy

1879 – Nothing

1880 – 187.50 Appointed PM 4 January 1879 [postmaster?]

1881 – 187.50

$375.00

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| G 8701 | B - 82 | Sept. 12, 1883 | Telegram | Kennedy, Roderick | Napanee, Ont. | Norquay, John | Asking him to send Dr. Kennedy $25.00 to Port Arthur. Action: Sent him $50.00 draft the same day from  Merchants' Bank. | Copy |

“Please send twenty five dollars to Alexander Kennedy Port Arthur mail you draft today”

Action notation on back of cover sheet: “Sent him $50.00 draft the same day from Merchants Bank”

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| G 8701 | B - 400 | Dec. 28, 1883 | Letter | Kennedy, William | St. Andrews, Man. | Norquay, John | Recommending Dr. Ballenden for a position. |  |

“My Dear Mr Norquay We have just now living with a relative – a nephew of the late John Ballenden at one time a Governor of Assiniboia. He came to this country in June last hoping to find something to do but so far he has been disappointed. He has some knowledge of medicine & is also more or less acquainted with mining life having been brought up in the ‘Black Country’ where his father has been a life long medical attendant on miners. Could you not give him a position at some of your mines where with being a medical man he could also make himself generally useful? I would take it as a great personal favour done to myself if you could do anything for him in this or any other way. Wishing you the compliments of the season & that every good thing may ever attend you & all yours. I remain, very truly, Wm Kennedy

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| G 8702 | C - 246 | Jan. 1, 1884 | Letter | Kennedy, Wm. | St. Andrews, Man. | Norquay, John |  | Note sent by Dr. Ballenden re position as doctor at mines. Dealt with by Mr. N. | 2 pp. |

‘My dear Mr Norquay In the hope that you will be able to give the position to Dr. Ballenden to act as the doctor at your mine, he will go to Winnipeg tomorrow & present you with this note. I think he will answer or rather fulfil all the duties you can require of him & in addition be otherwise useful, from having had a long experience in one of the most extensive mining districts in England.

I notice that you are soon to leave for Ottawa. Would you kindly send me a cheque for the $25.00 you promised to me through Mrs. K, & with wishing you & all yours every present as well as future blessings, I remain very truly yrs, W. Kennedy”

Action: dealt with by Hon Mr. Norquay

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| G 8701 | C - 30 | Jan. 10, 1884 | Letter | Thompson, Jas. | Quoys St. Margaret’s Hope Orkney | Norquay, John | Private. | Original & Copy 2 pp. |

Re ancestry of the late John Tait “whose sad and truly melancholy latter end 23 Sept 1879 you intimated to me by letter at that time; as you only said he hailed from the Orkneys about 1829 and as the name was extinct in our island, I fully concluded Mr. Tait must have belonged to some parish in ‘Pomona’ so at that time I gave up further enquiry. As you may perhaps be aware my second son John is now in Winnipeg H.B.Co offices Northern Department, and my good friend Captn Kennedy of Maple Gove having invited him down there to spend the Sunday, he went to church with the Captn and his family and inside that sacred edifice he noticed a marble slab on the wall ‘In memory of John Tait late of South Ronaldshay etc’ erected I think by Dr. Schultz.”

With this, I could investigate – “…youngest son of the late James Tait, in the ‘Eastside’ of this island, two married sisters long since dead, an elder brother James “an officer of the H.B. Co finally settled at Red River and died long ago…”

I met Mr. Bannatyne and family in Edinburgh for the first time – “(of course I knew his father). He had just then returned from Orkney, but from want of time had been unable to visit South Ronaldshay altho’ the place of his nativity…. Mr McMicken and his son were with him.

Hope you will visit the “little ‘sea girt isle’ of Ronaldshay on which lived and died your worthy forefathers of the long past”

Happy new year

**Order-in-Council #1639, 5 Nov 1884 (backdated**): Thomas Norquay resigned as Registrar, replaced by William Theodore Ballenden Kennedy – for the Division of Dennis

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| G 8703 | C - 728 | Feb. 21, 1885 | Letter | Kennedy, Eleanor | Maple Grove [St Andrews] | Norquay, John | Invitation to attend a concert on Friday 27th. No action. |

“Dear Mr Norquay We have decided to have our concert here on Friday next the 27th & thank you to give us a couple of readings & songs. I also want you to ask Mr. McBeath to give a recitation & Tom to bring down his violin. The tea is in the reading room from 5 to 7, the concert from 7 to 9 in the school room. I will send you up some tickets to sell by the first chance. Now […?] you are not to make any other engagements for that evening. Will you call at Richardson’s & ask for the books ordered there for Nellie some time since, she is much in need of them. Hoping that Mrs. Norquay has benefited by her visit to the mountain & that dear Nellie is better, with kind regard, I remain, Yours sincerely,

Eleanor Kennedy

**JN to WTB Kennedy, Registrar, Virden 30 May 1885 [Letterbook E473]** “My dear Willie I received your communication of the 26th inst enclosing $30.00 which you wished me to pay to the London Guarantee and Accident Company. I scarcely think that it is fair that they should have the preference after I have waited since last fall for the money I loaned you when I am paying heavy interest for advances myself. I enclose you your note. I am sorry to charge you interest but I am so pinched these times that I cannot help myself.”

Ps I shall apply the balance in any manner you direct. J.N.

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| G 8729 | No # |  | Nov. 2, 1885 | Letter | Proudfoot, F. | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Re: Mrs. Jane Kennedy & others scrip. |

F Proudfoot’s letterhead: real estate and financial agent

Re Jane, Elizabeth, Sarah and Isabella Kennedy

They inform me that you interceded for them in the matter of scrip coming to them. They are friends of mine and I’m trying to help them too. Their applications though sent on 29 Sept, had been sent “without any recommendation.” This may mean delay. They ask if “you would do them the great favour of giving their claim a lift while in Ottawa. Approaching winter makes the question of delay a serious one.”

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| G 8724 | C - 1514 | April 5, 1886 | Letter | Ballenden, John | Medicine Hat, N.W.T. | Norquay, John | Asking to be again appointed Surgeon at Sask. Coal Cos. Mine. |

“Sir Two years ago through the intervention of Capn Wm Kennedy of St Andrews you were kind enough to give me the apptmt of Surgeon to the Saskatchewan Mines up here – it is said that they are about being re-opened. May I again solicit your influence to obtain a continuance of the office…”

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| G 8727 | C - 2535(a) | Jan. 10, 1887 | Letter | Kennedy, Eleanor | St. Andrews | Norquay, John | Re: Memorial. |

“Dear Mr. Norquay I send up the Captn’s memorial to the Queen, which you were kind enough to promise to forward to His Excellency for him to transmit.

“I do hope the Government will recognize that my husband has a just ground of appeal. Dr. Rae had £10,000 for bringing home relics he himself purchased from some wandering Esquimaux & Sir Leopold McClintock simply followed out the plan & line market out by the Captain & made use of his discovery to do so, & on his return, has £10,000 a Baronetcy & is raised to the rank of Admiral, half this sum would amply provide for our old age, & I feel that in [illegible] justice England owes that to my husband. Believe me, Dear Mr. Norquay, Yours sincerely, Eleanor Kennedy”

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| G 8727 | C - 2535(b) | Jan. 19, 1887 | Letter | Gov. General's Secretary | Ottawa | Norquay, John | Kennedy Memorial sent to Queen as requested. |

Received yours of 15 inst – Kennedy memorial “will be forwarded to England by the ensuing mail.”

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| G 8728 | C - 2776 | March 5, 1887 | Letter | Kennedy, Wm. | St. Andrew’s | Norquay, John | Re: Roderick's money. |

“My Dear Mr Norquay, Today I have had a letter from my brother Roderick in which he informs me he has lost his excellent wife after a very short illness. It must have been about the 25th ulto & it will be an irreparable loss as she had to nurse a lame boy in addition to household duties.

“Towards the close of his letter he says: ‘While I am writing I wish you would inquire of Mr. Norquay respecting a matter I have never alluded to you. In 1881 I advanced the sum of $2000 to Sheriff Setter at his request & after consulting Mr. Norquay which Setter said he could place to my advantage. I have written of late years frequently to Setter on the subject & once to Mr. Norquay & from neither have I received any answer. Please ask Mr. Norquay what he knows of the matter & what has become of the money or what it represents.’

“Hoping you will excuse my having to write you on this matter & also again to express our sympathy with you & your family in the present visitation. I remain,

very sincerely yrs Wm Kennedy

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| G 8730 | No # | Nov. 30, 1887 | Letter | Kennedy, W. | St. Andrews | Norquay, John | Asks for Nov. salary. Reply by Norquay on back. |

“My Dear Mr Norquay I am sorry I have to ask you for my salary for the month just expiring. Taxes are saying ‘provide’ or ‘distress’ will come & are therefore as great a source of anxiety as State matters must be to all Premiers.

Hoping you are all well & with best wishes to all I remain Wm Kennedy

P.S. Would you kindly get the proper Dept to send me a copy of the game laws? WK

**JN to Wm Kennedy Esq St. Andrews 2 Dec 1887 [LB6-8**] “My dear Capt., I enclose herewith Cheque for your salary for November duly cashed. Will you kindly endorse the cheque, sign the receipt and return the same to myself or to the Treasury Dept. Yours sincerely, J. Norquay”

**10 Alexander Sinclair**

Alexander Sinclair (La Cloche) to Norquay, 29 March 1879, NPP, A – 367 Text:

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| G 8697 | A - 367 | March 29, 1879 | Letter | Sinclair, Alexander HBC | ketu | [Norquay, John] | Friendly letter. Acknowledging the receipt of one from Mr. Norquay. |

Fine hand, copperplate penmanship,

Rec'd "your most welcome letter, wherein you mention your intended trip to Ottawa. I saw by the Papers that you had been there and had gone back again, long before I got your letter. I would have been only too glad to have met you at the Capital, where I'm pretty well at home. I am proud to see your name figuring at the head of the Ministry of the Manitoba Parliament. May you long enjoy the confidence of the natives of 'Red River Settlement,' for its [it's] few natives that have made their marks in the new order of things. For my part I have been too long in the HB Co Service to leave it now. I have a first class charge now, and I intend to hold on to it as long as I can.

The next move on my part will be to get a wife. I have been single long enough, its now time to settle down. I shall never forget my native land, many many times my thoughts wander away back to Friend I have left behind, it won't therefore be long before I pay you all a visit…..

I heard … from Charly Johnson, he's a good and true friend to me…. I'm glad he was on your side at the last elections.

I must finish this by wishing you every success, I remain, Yours truly, -----

**11 Peter Erasmus**

Norquay’s classmate, Peter Erasmus, wrote: “Most Englishmen of my acquaintance considered themselves made of superior cloth; even the most ignorant and pitiably helpless individuals faced with the ways of living of the West all looked down on the native inhabitants as inferior beings … [and] made no effort to conceal their intolerance for the native sons of the land with part European blood in their veins.”

From: **Peter Erasmus *Buffalo Days and Nights*, as told to Henry Thompson, introduction and notes by Irene Spry (Calgary: Glenbow-Alberta Institute, 1976) p 112. Also Calgary: Fifth House, 1999).**

A turning point in Erasmus’s life was the day he decided not to accept Captain Palliser’s invitation to go to England to further his education. The distinguished expedition leader said Erasmus “would be an ornament to your people.” Erasmus’s response suggested the race-based implications at the heart of his choice of path: “the very use of the captain’s word, ‘ornament’ proved that my refusal was the correct decision. My pride and independence would be tied to their bounty. I would soon hate my position and in all likelihood would give physical expression to the condescending mannerism of the people and thereby bring disappointment and trouble to these good men... in my own environment, it took a lot of self-restraint to ignore the supercilious mannerisms of the few who found their way into my country.” Pp 112-113

Peoples’ opinions changed. [Even Bishop Anderson, who started out as a defender of the Métis, seemed in old age to turn on them. He wrote his successor, Robert Machray, to say that … original settlers, not the next generation” “ ….And he mentioned not a single one of the mixed-race students who had been successes, not even James Ross or John Norquay, when he listed some favourites.]

[\*\*\* And yet is this true?? Peter Erasmus returned to Red River ca. 1860 – Bishop Anderson’s attitude had softened, he inquired carefully about the Indians of the West – “revealed a much broader opinion than he had expressed at the time of my last visit with him.” [137] Bishop Anderson acted as banker for the account Erasmus left to aid his mother.]

One of Norquay’s classmates, Peter Erasmus, also asked for help. Erasmus had become a formidable figure in the western interior where he worked as a farmer, trader, and quasi-civil servant and played a prominent role as translator during the negotiation of Treaty 6 in 1876. Observing the disappearance of buffalo and the arrival of the first waves of settlers, he recognized that the economic transition in the North-West could not be resisted. He wrote to Norquay of his own wish to be granted scrip and said: “I need not tell you where I was raised for I know you know as well as myself – and should there be any doubt as to the fact you could find my name in the Baptismal Register of St Andrews for the year 1833. I hold a very good situation in the Indian Department in the Saskatchewan ---- I hope you will for old acquaintance sake do all you can for me.” His letter evoked memories of an earlier time. Though it did not spell out Erasmus’s reasons for asking, Norquay may had understood its context, including the starvation and dislocation taking place among Métis and First Nation communities in the plains districts of the North-West Territories.

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| G 8699 | A - 1169 | June 4, 1882 | Letter | Erasmus, Peter | Qu'Appelle, N.W.T. | Norquay, John | Asking if there is any chance of him getting any scrip and stating he is a native of the Country. Soliciting Mr. N.'s aid. |  |

Pencil, graceful hand

“Sir I hope you will excuse me for taking the liberty of writing you as I have never been in the habit of doing so. I am about to ask you to do me a favor. You are aware I am a native of the country and born in Winnipeg and have never received any scrip as yet. I would be ever grateful to you if you wiuld find out for me if there is a chance for me as well as the many who are in the Saskatchewan. I need not tell you where I was raised for I know you know as well as myself – and should there be any doubt as to the fact you could find my name in the Baptismal Register of St Andrews for the year 1833. I hold a very good situation in the Indian Department in the Saskatchewan ---- I hope you will for old acquaintance sake do all you can for me. I remain, Yours very truly, Peter Erasmus Any letter directed to Battleford will find me PE”

**12 Andrew Spence and family**

Paget J. Code, “Les Autres Métis: The English Métis of the Prince Albert Settlement

1862-1886,” (MA thesis, University of Saskatchewan 2008);

Bill Waiser *A ,World We Have Lost: Saskatchewan Before 1905*, (Markham ON: Fifth House 2016), pp522-25; *Manitoba Free Press* and Winnipeg *Times*, 28 February 1885

**Cooke papers: Ellen Cooke “Information from Mrs. J. E. McAllister, March 9, 1946”:** “The photo of Andrew Spence and Premier Norquay at McAllister’s. Andrew Spence – tailor – grand uncle of Premier. Mother’s uncle (perhaps). Probably lived around Winnipeg. Took in Norquay on father’s death.” Ellen Cooke papers, File#4: “Mrs. J. E. McAllister”

On Spence’s genealogy: Gail Morin *Metis Families* vol 10 (Third edition), p. 259 [Archives of Manitoba].

On the High Bluff lands: “Parish and Settlement General Register, Manitoba and North West Territories” Archives of Manitoba G-5463.

I am grateful to Don Norquay, Winnipeg, who helped me with this information on the Spence-Norquay family relationship. Don writes: “I would also suggest that the Premier’s family relationship with Andrew Spence would be worth mentioning, not just their friendship. My understanding is that the Premier’s wife was Andrew’s second cousin (both being great-grandchildren of James Spence). (John’s brother Thomas was also married to a second cousin of Andrew).”

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| A - 171 | Apr. 6, 1875 | Letter | Spence, Andrew | High Bluff, Man. | Norquay, John | A seat in the Council and re: a fortune. |

Dear Norquay

Rec’d your letter -- Thanks for news that Leg Council not expanding – and my suggestion that I be the new member … “I hope you will excuse me for aspiring to such a notion and actually to have the brass to ask you of such a favour.” [sic] I’m embarrassed to have asked – “however I hope it will not go further than yourself to know of it.”

“I am sorry you did not let me know sooner that you wanted down your harrow. I might of sent it down by Philip as he was down so near you last week. I really do not know what to do this spring. I think Farming will be useless however I’ll try a little. I’m slowly making my mind for Saskatcwan [sic] If Govt sends freight to Carlton or Pelly let me know if I can “secure a trip … so that we might make some kind of a swing. Though you are not member for High Bluff we the natives still look to as our foremost man and I hope you will do all you can to secure a chance for us if anny.” [sic]

I’m “full of requests” and this next will make you laugh: “Report up this way is Jack Irvin as got word of a big fortune left to him by his late mother and that mother was George Setters mother’s mother & Archy. And Andrew Spence Father’s Mother and all the other Spences great grandmother now don’t laugh. Its just as old George put it to me and asked me to write to you about it and for you to enquire from Duncan McArthur the Winnipeg Banker if such be the case as he is the man mentioned to be telling Jack Irvin all the secrets of this great fortune. According to old George’s talk when he traces up our for Fathers he names our great grandfather Sir Isaac Batt, and this is were the fortune comes from which we hope to participate from however funny this may appear to you. If you have hard [sic] the report yourself which I have no doubt you have….” – then old Jack would be “kicked aside”

We were very sorry to hear of Betsy serious illness so long & also happy to hear of her getting better.

PS Will you be buying a yoke of oxen soon If so I’m the man will sell you a yoke at any age We have another little one added to the Family by Elizabeth Ann she had a son tother [sic] night. Yours truly Andrew Spence

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| A - 173 | April 8, 1875 | Letter | Spence, Andrew | High Bluff, Man. | Norquay, John | Thanking Mr. N. for a Copy of the Speech from the Throne and also for a copy of the Free Press and passing eulogies on his success. |

Dear Norquay

I can not but thank you for your kindness in sending the speech from the throne and also a dayly Free Press. I can see you are still mindful of me. I asure [sic] you I received that same with great pleasure as you must know that I’m very lowly these times no shooting, and hauling over. I often wish I was nearer to your legislative Hall. I think I would sit with pleasure in lisning [sic] to your debates. Your reply to F.E. Cornish’s speech takes well up this way & it makes me proud to know at least that we have one native that can teach Cornish is place in that House. Take care this time when in the Ministry keep clear of the lawyers. If not sufficiently confident for my part I think you have hit the mark this time by accepting a seat in the Ministry & the proud way your constituents supported you. Old McKenzie is a staunch man for you. I was with him one whole day buying up wheat for destitute parties. This is how I know his sentiments towards you. I think Dr. Cowan will be a firm man on your side try and keep the Doctor on your side so that the pople [sic] of High bluff that is the Canadians may see after all their member is influenced by John Norquay.

The natives up this way would like to know what about the grants to be given in script. They ask me can they sell this scrip to the Gov and get $160 …. Or in other words will the Gov. give $160 for the scrip to the Heads of families and children that’s of age. What say you. I hope the gov. will take action in the matter as soon as possible for it will be a great help this hard summer.

I hope you will answer this. And also if you have received any information about the family fortune. I hope Betsy’s well and all your other care

I remain your effect [affectionate] friend, Andrew Spence

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| A - 170 | Sept. 8, 1875 | Letter | Spence, Andrew | High Bluff, Man. | Norquay, John | Asking Mr. N. to hand the enclosed certificate of  Baptism of his children to the Commissioner. |

Dear Norquay

I send to you a certificate of the Baptism of my children sent to me by Mr Young of St Andrew’s Parish would you kindly hand over the same for me to Commissioner McLean [?] as he says claims made cant be good without certificates. So you will greatly oblige me to hand over the enclosed…. I expect to go down some time week after next if all keeps well. Petty [Letty] will be comeing down with me to make a general visit. I would like to see your new House I hope I will have time this time to be able to go down the way. …. I remain your dear friend, Andrew Spence.

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| A - 172 | Dec. 6, 1875 | Letter | Spence, Andrew | High Bluff, Man. | Norquay, John | Apologizing for his conduct and asking Mr. N. to  secure a loan of $200 or $300. |

Dear Norquay

I find you very silent this while back in not writing a line to me. I hope you are not taking offence with me for my bad behaviour at the Portage exhibition towards you in making you footed down to Gordins’ go, all through a drinking fit. I assure you dear Norquay I never felt so mean in my life as I did when I awoke from the drunken sleep I earnestly hope that you will not see me in such a state again. I felt very much ashamed when in Winnipeg last I wished to see you and at the same time felt very akward [sic] about it. And when you treated me as you did as if nothing transpired in my conduct towards you I felt or the more humiliated. And for this reason I have joined the BAGT [Templars] at Portage la Prairie. John James as also joined it. Old Gerrona [? Gerrond?] got on the drink at the dinner at St Andrews night. The result is that that he was proposed at the last meeting of the Lodge to become a member. We have no news or nothing new …only some people up here say the Standard is the best newspaper of corse [sic] I keep my opinion to myself on that matter. I wonder if High Bluffers will get any assistance from the Gov in getting seed for next spring. If not I would like to know what is your opinion on the relief extended to this province by the Dom Gov.

I would like if you could procure the loan of a few hundred dollars for me from some of your rich acquaintances in Winnipeg. I would give a mortgage on my lot eather [sic] of the lots you know how I’m situated and therefore could act for me in the matter without that I cant see how am I to farm this spring try your best for me to procure the loan, for 2 or 3 years & at 10per c.

Philip Hourie would wish to mortgage is place if he could only know where to get the money. I assure you its going to be a hard time next summer and now I must conclude with wishing you and Family in good health. We are all well, at present, thank God, I remain yours truly, Andrew Spence

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| A - 2 | Jan. 24, 1878 | Order to Pay | Adams, James | High Bluff, Man. | Norquay, John |

“ To Honl John Norquay

Pay to William Davis or Andrew Spence the sum of twenty five dollars & sixty cents … and charge to my acct. [sgd] James Adams”

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| A - 33 | June. 20, 1878 | Letter | Spence, Andrew | High Bluff, Man. | Norquay, John | Asking Mr. N. to give G.C. the sum due him for voters list. |

I travelled with Sandy [Alex] Murry: “he talks very favourably of your return as member for Selkirk at the same time he can’t see how the Local Gov is to stand without you the Davis Gov would never stand and on that side you may expect little support. However you have ability enough to carry your own views among them

Sam Dalzell wants the mortgage discharge of Halcrow lot that he bought – don’t forget.

“ SAME, 26 Feb 1878: Please give bearer of note the money due me for voters list.

My mother has died and “I feel the loss of a true and loving mother after all it’s a hard thing to be deprived of one [in] … whom you know cares for you. But such is the way of all the world. You said you were to be up soon. I wish you would come. You would be a great treat to me just now. I remain your friend for ever, Andrew Spence”

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| G 8697 | A - 376 | Jan 4, 1879 | Letter | Biggs, S.C. | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Stating he was employed and paid by no one in the case of Spence vs Spence. |

Flowing hand, local law office stationery – "D.M.Walker & S.C.Biggs B.A."

"Sir: Your letter of the 3rd Jany instant quite surprises me. You ask me to inform you if I was retained by Capt. Allan of St Andrews in the case of Spence vs Spence before the commission in St Andrews I have only to say in reply that I was not retained by Capt Allan or paid by him in the said cause. In fact I never spoke to Capt Allan nor did I know him by sight till since the late election when he was in court in a cause as defendant in which I appeared for the plaintiff and I state without fear of contradiction that I never either directly or indirectly had any communication with Capt Allan regarding the case of Spence vs Spence

"I further state that the only person who had any thing to do with securing my services for the said James Spence was yourself – to whom I look for payment for my services I really cannot understand why Capt Allan should make such a statement as that he retained me paid me for my services in the cause and if he did so state I have no hesitation in pronouncing it an absolute falsehood in every particular."

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| A - 377 | Aug. 1, 1879 | Letter | Spence, Andrew | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Asking Mr. N. to help him obtain a fat govt' office. |

'My dear Norquay In your influential and exalted position could you not procure for me an office in the N.W. say an Indian agent or some fat office or other. I think I can safely be presumtous [sic] enough in this respect as I have ever been your dutiful and obedient supporter. If you don't aid me I think I may have a hard run of it in the future.

I hope Betsy & yourself and family are all well. I remain yours Faithfully

Andrew Spence

P.S. I'm sorry that I have to remind you of your duty to your friend

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| G 8697 | A - 291 (a) | Dec. 15, 1879 | Letter | Spence, Andrew Secretary Treasurer | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Asking for payment. |
| G 8697 | A - 291 (b) | [No Date] | Tax Notice | Spence, Andrew Secretary Treasurer | High Bluff | Adams, Charles | To amount of taxes due by Chas. Adams. |

“With reference to the enclosed Adams Act, I beg to request you to return to me with the least unnecessary delay…”

“Taxes for High Bluff school Charles Adams 1878: 6.25 1879: 4.06

Balance due $10.31

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| G 8697 | A - 405 | Jan. 21, 1880 | Letter | Spence, Andrew | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Asking Mr. N. to assist Mr. Martin their teacher to procure permission to teach another year, as he did not get a certificate on account of some blunder of the Board of Education. |

"Dear Norquay As you are a member of the board of education I would be to request you to assist Mr. Martin our school teacher who is into great difficulty in not obtaining a certificate through some mismanagement of some party or other…." [we would like to retain him] "until the examination of candidates comes off Wed. For I assure you we well appreciate his services as teacher for I know that the children are getting along well under his able tuition. I thought he would be all right in that respect therefore we the trustees had him hired for the next year." Spence wonders if trustee Mr. Armson wants to hire his son.

[ps] “Jam Tate makes the Drummond Ball tomorrow night”

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| G 8698 | A - 453 | Aug. 5, 1880 | Letter | Spence, Andrew [County Municipality Portage Laprairie [sic] | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John | Statute Labor. Mr. N. to provide for the same in the Municipality of Portage la Prairie. [as Manager of C.Adams estate]. |  |
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Statute Labor District No 33

"Hon John Norquay Manager of C. Adam Estate

Dear Sir You are hereby notified to be present on the Public highway at or near the farm of W.G. Alcocks on Thursday the 12th day of August with a shovel at the hour of 8 o'clock a.m. You are to furnish 2 days statute labor or commute within three days after this notice at the rate of $2.00 for each day …." Andrew Spence Overseer

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| G 8698 | A - 471 | Sept. 11, 1880 | Letter | Adams, C. | Pas Post | Neestaw [Brother-in-law, Norquay, John] | Private family matters. |  |

"Pas Post Dear Neestaw I have sent off or rather your sister has made arrangements with Mrs McDonald & Mrs Ballendin for Feathers. Think nearly 40 lbs which McDonald writes me he has sent off already to Grand Rapids to your address. Hope you will get it all right.

C Commissioner Graham was here last night - & since the 7th I have had very little sleep on account Ind Payment – (took in over $2900.00 in 2 days, private)

Two Boats Indians gone in to Man: - Can't have much – only $405.00 not got in by us here & same success elsewhere. The C.C. was very good & civil.

Looking out for the Northcote to come down every moment – River as high as ever I saw it except on my arrival & it is now rising again, the country all Lake, no hay can be made – At Edmonton 8 days ago water rose 16 ft perpdr [perpendicular] in one night – so our Mr Graham told me – In 24 days here it has raised 23 –

Yr sister's leg is worse than ever it has been – able to walk tho' – Horace well & Joseph ditto – Charles [Charlotte?] don't forget her Auntie about when she put [feel?] her hand & often speaks of it - & looking at yr photo she recognises you & says 'Charles' Uncin [Micin?]

Got your letter in reference to Horace's money – glad of it

Hargrave tells me A. Spence's property is heavily mortgaged & must be about in for $1000.00 please will you be on guard

H B Steamer will run twice up this river yet after coming down this time

Kind love to you all & hope to see you out next summer – mind –

Your aft Keestaw C A Adams

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| G 8699 | A - 896 (a) | April 29, 1881 | Letter | Whitcher, A.H. Dom. Lands Office | Winnipeg | Tait, Joseph | Re: Application for lot no. 2, St. Andrews; further evidence needed. |  |
| G 8699 | A - 896 (b) | Dec. 16, 1874 | Certified Copy | Sinclair, Thomas, Registrar, Land Office | County of Lisgar |  | Re: Conveying Lot no. 2 from Archibald Spence and Andrew Spence to John Tait, Oct. 3, 18, 1866. Sworn statement by John Norquay, Dec. 16, 1874. | Envelope marked "papers Joseph Tait Apr. '81" |
| G 8699 | A - 896 (c) | April 20, 1881 | Letter | Russell, A., Dept. of Interior, Dom. Lands Office | Ottawa | Tait, Joseph | Acknowledging receipt of letter & supporting  documentation re: patent application for Lot No. 2, St. Andrews. |  |

Cover sheet: "Joseph Tait St Andrews April 1881 re lot 2, St Andrews"

b): "Red River Settlement We the undersigned do hereby empower John Tait Senior to get his name entered in the Red River Land Register for the lot now standing in the name of the late George Spence as we have given up to the said John Tait all right & title in the same sgd Archibald Spence sgd Andrew Spence 3 Oct 1866

The lot of land herein referred to is that immediately below Parks Creek

Witness sgd J Norquay

Obverse: JN swore that he witnessed the above, 16 Dec 1874 before Thomas Sinclair, Registrar"

c)Letterhead of Dept of Interior Lands Office, Ottawa, 20 April 1881 to Joseph Tait, St Andrews MB:

A. Russell, for the Surveyor General, acknowledges receipt of your letter of 6 April "making application for the issue of letters patent to you for lot no 2 in parish of St Andrews, and enclosing declarations of yourself, Charles Johnstone, and William Sinclair"

a) letterhead of Dom Lands Office, Wpg 29 April 1881, to Joseph Tait: Re Lot 2, St Andrews, claimed by you under Manitoba Act. The evidence is lacking on this point: "The name of George Spence appears in the HBCo's Register as having received 100 acres of the lot gratis – explanation required without delay.

[Sgd:] A H Whitcher"

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| G 8698 | A - 773 | Aug. 2, 1881 | Letter | Spence, Andrew | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Re: Station location at High Bluff. |  |

"My dear Norquay Would you kindly inform me with earliest convience [sic] if you have seen General Rosser or have you written to him and if so what kind of an answer have you goten [sic] from him I am particularly anxious to know if they have yet decided were [sic: where] they intend to mark out the station I depend on your kindness for me to use your influence in order to secure the station on my land. I think it would be a great Benefit to myself & as well to the neighbours all round If the chief engineer or Professer is true to his word he intended to recommend my place to the Head party of this work and I think if you back him for the same end all will be well with our neighbourhood we are overlooked too long altogether Nothing in our midst to take away the dull life of this place we must either go to Poplar Point or Portage La Prairie to get a cash market for produce no good of me telling you these things you know well[,] I remain yours Respectfully Andrew Spence

PS We are busy at the hay just now and the harvest will be ready in a week. Yours Andrew Spence Give my respects to home

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| G 8698 | A - 769 | Sept. 5, 1881 | Letter | Spence, Andrew | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Re: Location of station grounds at High Bluff. |  |

"Dear Friend In writing once more to impress you on the matter of station grounds being on my land do not think for a moment that I think you are not representing my case But I have heard of parties at the Bluff writing to Stickney & General Rosser and offering land for station purposes. Now I beg to say in introducing the subject for me you can guarintee sufficent [sic] ground of my land as they may require for station use Tell them that the only landing is opposite my place as well If that would more likely to induce the case you can use it if you like however I leave the matter entirely to your own consideration I was very sorry I could not have you a night to mself [sic] when up I felt hurt very much I am sure you always new [sic] that I have used you and confided in you as my only friend in this world.

I hope these few lines will meet your harty [sic] approval and that you may overlook any imperfectness which you see and know of me. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain your Friend Most Respectfully Andrew Spence"

**A – 793 – accounts 1881**:

Sheet 2: "John Norquay in ac't with C Adams

Dr to cash per A Spence 65.00 + 2.00 to be added for registration

To cash per G Adams 157.50

Cash 200.00

Cash per Jos Adams 44.00

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| G 8699 | A - 886 | Dec. 8, 1881 | Letter | Spence, Andrew | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Re: Surveying lots in High Bluff. |  |

"Dear Norquay Sometime ago I wrote you a few lines But you don't condesend to answer. However I will try annother shot at you by way of informing you that surveyer AllBright is at work with me surveying my wood lots He requested me to write to you and see if you would like to have yours done by him to say so at your earliest convience as he wants to leave and will await an answer. Yours Andrew Spence" [sic]

(Office annotation on letter: "re surveying propy at High Bluff")

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| G 8700 | A - 1214 | Feb. 7, 1882 | Letter | Rickards, Charles D. | City (Winnipeg) | Bedson, S.L. | Re: Lot 50 and 51, St. Peters. Bedson's note to  Norquay on reverse. |  |

Printed letterhead, Dominion Lands Office Wpg: Rickards to Bedson, and Bedson to JN on reverse:

“Dear Bedson: I received the note this morning….it was re Lot 50 & 51 Saint Peter’s. I can find no trace of your name. The original claimant to Lot 50 is Andrew Spence, & to 51 is Thomas Bear. No patent has as yet been applied for. Is there a boom in St. Peter’s? I think it is almost time I made a strike somewhere? Hoping you are well, Believe me to remain Yours very faithfully Charles D. Rickards”

Annotation at bottom: “My dear Norquay I cannot now lay my hand on the abstract for lot 50 I forget whether I own 10 or 6 chains. You can see when you next go to St Andrews. I will transfer all to you for purpose of getting the Patent & you can then re-transfer the half to me. I have 3 chains at east Selkirk not yet patented. Will also divide if you can get Patent. Bannatyne has the adjoining 3 chains. See him – S L B.”

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| G 8699 | A - 1157 | June 9 & 10, 1882 | 2 Letters | Spence, Andrew | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Remuneration for services at election. | 2 pp. |

Scrawl, ink blots: “My frend I have paid [?found] your Tom the required flour [?] …[illegible] payment for Charles Adams[.] But I must say – you had to give me a consideration for services for you last Election you sent for me you know well[.] If I only got one vote for you I done my best. And I consider that I am Entitled to a consideration from you at least I think you should think the same. Yours truly, Andrew Spence

Second note: “Another thing you as a premier you have never paid for being returning officer for your municipal election for which I claim $10.00 Yours truly

Andrew Spence

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| G 8699 | A - 1159 | June 17, 1882 | Letter | Milne, P. | Queensville, Ont. | Norquay, John | Acknowledging Mr. N.'s letter on purely family matters. |  |

Near Lake Simcoe, ON handwritten, clear script

Hon J. Norquay Dear Sir: You will no doubt think it very strange and probably ungentlemanly on the part of my Father for not replying to your most interesting and welcome letter….[He is “advanced in years”, can’t correspond, I do it for him, have been away – thus the delay]

Learned through Jas Anderson that “some of my father’s kindred were still left in the North West the birth place and boyhood home of my father….”

“So as to be certain we have made no mistakes in the connections, I will briefly run them over. My Grandmother’s name was Kitty Morwick, the daughter of Jane Spence who you say is your Grandmother. You also state that two of her sons Joseph & David Spence are still living and are at Poplar Pt…. Yours very truly P. Milne”

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| G 8700 | A - 1362 | Oct. 22, 1883 | Letter | Adams, Charles | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Neestaw {Brother-in- Law - Norquay, John] | Family matters. |  |

“Dear Neestaw On the 14th inst we were very much pleased to receive a little stranger in the shape of a little son, both mother & babe doing well.

I am in a fair way of securing a splendid claim of ½ a section, it is a lovely place, my brothers are going to help me put up a little House so as to secure it more surely until spring. I am renting 30 acres new broke land from A Spence for the [financing? illegible] of it, so that we shall be all right – Andrew’s claim comes on to mine, the boys are backsetting & have been working very hard.

Excuse us for writing irregularly as the Post Office is 15 miles away. With kind love to all, I remain, Affly Keestaw [over]

Ps I enclose a letter to Mr. Vivian re Gerrond’s note which he has. Should it not be too much, would you kindly drop a note to Mr. Howell about it you would oblige me very much Keestaw.

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| G 8702 | C - 375 | Nov. 8, 1884 | Letter | Adams, Horace C. | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Uncle [J Norquay] | Family matters. Dealt with by Mr. N. |

“My dear Uncle I received your kind and welcome letter of Oct 22nd & was sorry to learn from it that Auntie is not very well but I hope she will be better soon. Mamma and all the rest are quite well but I am still unable to work I was again down to the Doctor & he says I just went down in time for him to prevent consumption & he said for me never to neglect a cold and if I would that would be the last of me. Tom is busy putting up a sheep house & papa is minding a cutter for Andrew Spence. We did not get our crop threshed yet but I expect we will be getting the mill about a week or so from now. Andrew Spence took seven first prizes at the show which amounted to $49.00 & Uncle Robie took seven too but only amounted to $17.50. Tom bought a new horse and he is a regular flier. Papa is teaching singing down at the South Branch every Friday night at half past six.

Baby is running about smart and just trying hard to speak he is already master of a few words & names he can say papa & mamma & Rita & Joe, Tom & Hoyis & Dido & this & me. The rabbits are very plentiful out here this year papa was out hunting one day for about 4 hours and he killed 21 rabbits & 7 partridges.

Kiss Auntie for me & tell Pood [?Pard?]to be sure and write. And with love to yourself, I remain your loving nephew Horace C. Adams

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| G 8703 | C - 651 | March 14, 1885 | Letter | Spence, Andrew | Prince Albert PO, Red Deer Hill | Norquay, John | Securing him an Indian Agency at Battleford. |

“My dear Norquay Private I must again be the first to write to you. Although you have treated me with silence. I know you have not altogether forgotten. It is not certainly what I ever expected from you. I must confess my dear Norquay I feel the cut very keenly and it is enough.

I now again as usual write in full confidence that you will give me an answer favourably by return of mail. Report says out here that you are to be Minister of the Interior. If so its no use for me to go round the bush as you will read me through anyhow I therefor humbly beg of you to secure for me an Indian agency appointment at Battleford District if you can.

PS if your appointment be correct I think it will have a good effect on the Natives however I wont say until we see if report is true….”

**Norquay to Andrew Spence, 27 March 1885, NPP, Letterbook E, pp305-306**

Text: “My dear Andrew[:] I have not written to you on account of the feeling that you had towards me when leaving Manitoba, which of course was communicated to me by my son to whom you spoke openly in terms that were not flattering to myself and which led me to believe that the friendship which has been so long a matter of mutual gratification between us had come to an end. There is no foundation for the report that I shall be appointed Minister of the Interior.”

Affairs “must be in a bad shape out in your part of the Territory. Bad Councils apparently have prevailed. I only hope that no acts of an irreparable character will be perpetrated. I feel for my countrymen because I think they have not been treated as they should be and under judicious management and a proper course everything will come out all right in the end but I fear very much that the steps that are being taken will retard rather than hasten such condition. I know the government well. They are slow to act but are always open to reason. I can attribute to the conduct of its officials much of the ill feeling that now exists in the Prince Albert district and I think also that were people selected from the different localities in which appointments have to be filled the result would be much more explainable than at present.

“I may if able to get away from my official duties in the course of the summer pay a visit to Prince Albert so that I may have the opportunity of finding out thoroughly the wants of the people and if I can in any way advance their interests by an advocacy of their claims I shall only be too happy to do so. I am, Yours faithfully, J Norquay”

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| G 8703 | C - 604 | April 4, 1885 | Letter | George  [Geordie Adams?] | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Friendly note. Congratulations of Terms, etc. |

“[sic] Portage la Prairie: Der John I am trying to scrible a few lines to let know that we are only in midling helth at present. I am geting over a bad cold Mary has not been this while past she fels bad since hearing the news from Batleford.

Hoping these few lines will find you all in good helth We did not get a word from West latly. If you got any word from Charley [Adams?] we would like to hear We herd that Andrew Spence Robi and some of the Pachas [Pocha?] are with Riel

You must be very busy at present In reading the papers last week I felt proud to see that there is another native coming to the front

I congratulat McBeth and I congratulat your Government in having so promising a young man

Thomas Sinclair asked me to write to you and ask you if you could help him as he is in a bad possision The mortgage on his place will be closed if he don’t pay the int and also the mortgage on all his stock

The int now required would amt to about $200

Wishing you all well Yours ever faithful Geodie [?]

I hop you will be able to come and visit when you get throu the sesson I would like you would spend an evening with us”

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| G 8705 | C - 1116 | Sept. 10, 1885 | Telegram | Keele, F.S. | Poplar Point, Man. | Norquay, John | Stating David Spence has received a serious gun shot injury and is going to hospital. No action. |

[as above – and then] “…Please make arrangements.”

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| G 8705 | C - 1197 | | Sept. 16, 1885 | | Receipt | | Winnipeg General Hospital | | City (Winnipeg) | | Norquay, John | | Re: David Spence. To Private Ward for 6 days $15.00. No action. |
| G 8705 | C - 1197 | Sept. 16, 1885 | | Receipt | | Winnipeg General Hospital | | City (Winnipeg) | | Norquay, John | | Re: David Spence. To Private Ward for 6 days $15.00. No action. | |

For David Spence (deceased) Please remit to Clerk of the Directors

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| G 8705 | C - 1229[b] | Nov. 24, 1885 | Letter | Spence, Andrew | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Norquay, John | Re: Difference between him and Mr. N. See L.B. "F" p25. December 12, 1885. |

Rec’d your letter of 27 March. Didn’t reply. “You give me a sort of a queer hint about my feeling towards you when leaving which was communicated to you. Therefore the friendship which was a matter of mutual gratification to us had come to an end. Your conclusion was too hasty. You should consider you do me an injustice as a friend & a true friend as you well know haven’t I stuck to you through good report and evil report haven’t I believed in you when no one else did. But circumstances makes the case different Your position brings to you many friends therefore you can well dispense of poor Andrew Spence yes go on treat me like a foe with silent contempt, &c. But for all this you will allways [sic] command a warm spot in my heart. And now to our local matters out here.”

Things are quiet – rebellion – no crops, “and a good deal of discontent will prevail during the winter…”

Dewdney lacks tact. If he leaves, “cannot you secure the appointment a little of your natural shrewdness would go a long way to help the settlers and at the same time make your work pleasant and I’m sure would be hailed with joy by your poor unfortunate countrymen and other classes generally….”

**Norquay’s secretary recorded that the premier replied on 12 December, 1885**. The copy was apparently located in Letterbook F, a Letterbook that did not survive in his papers, and no hint as to what he said has been found.

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| G 8705 | C - 1313 | April 16, 1886 | Letter | Bannerman, S. | Poplar Point | Norquay, John | Joseph Spence's expected death. |

“Dear Mr. Norquay I have been requested by Joe’s boy to inform you that the Doctors have given up their father, they would like you come up and see him as he is not expected to last many days, he says that is you know how low he is you wd be sure to come. If you were to meet him you would not know him – tomorrow being Saturday you may have time. I will send a rig to the station to meet you.

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| G 8724 | C - 1639 | Feb. 22, 1886 | Letter | Setter, Colin | Portage la Prairie | Norquay, John | Re: Timber stolen & half payment of survey betweenMr. N.'s lot & his own. |

Sheriff Office Central Judicial District stationery (Portage) “My dear Norquay Your letter to hand the party that took oak timber from your lot was Joe Spence’s son Alfred Spence he toped when I spoke to him he has only taken eight (8) trees of you. I am getting my (40) forty acers survaed [sic] that is a line Between you & me it is customery for each party to pay half I suppose you will kick because I did not notify you there is a party by the name of McDonald cutting on the south east of Sec 25, or just on the line or north of 24. But you cant tell unless you would follow up the old lines and that is a very hard job I would hunt for the old lines between Sec 25 & 24 for you But cant afford to lose the time I am pretty sure it must be on the south east of your sec. as far as I hear if it is on you it is a fine lot of building poplar Yours as ever Colin”

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| G 8727 | C - 2318 | Nov. 9, 1886 | Letter | Adams, Joseph H. | Prince Albert, N.W.T. | Uncle [Norquay, John] | Family letter. |

“My Dear Uncle I just drop you a few lines to let you know that I do not forget you yet. Tom is not well just now, he is been at Troy. Mamma is not quite well yet. I have another little sister now again. Conrad likes it very much, he slepps with papa. Some times he slepps with me. I have not much news to tell you. Papa & I were working at the cow Bire today fixing up the stalls. I guess we will do the same tomorrow again. We have another Bire to fix up yet. The wolves are very thick this year. They are killing sheep every day nearly for our neighbours. They killed some for Andrew Spence. And they were amongst ours too, ours went other side Andrew’s & that was the way they went amongst ours. Edwin Spence saw him & he jumped on his horse and chased him off he drove him through our field. We never saw him coming but Andrew told us. They had one of Andrew’s down and the others were looking at him.

They would not run away from him. Mamma was wishing for papa to kill a pig but papa would not, so he was to stingey & one of our best ewes we had got tossed so bad so we had to kill her. If papa had killed a pig she would not of got tossed perhaps, so it seems it is a sin to not let any one have what they [illegible]. I remain with love to you all, Dear Uncle Joseph H. Adams”

**Some context for the discussion of Andrew Spence, stepbrother, and one of Norquay’s oldest friends:** It is possible that they had lived in the same household, at least for a while, when John and his sister were taken in by Granny Spence after his father died. The Orkney islands and Scotland did not figure in Spence’s correspondence with Norquay. Andrew Spence was one of the bachelors who had been part of the animated debates in the 1860s when John out-talked his opponents, according to a family story. Spence faced difficult economic times in the 1870s and appealed several times to Norquay for help. He also asked his friend to investigate the Spence family’s rumoured lost fortune, a story referring to18th century ancestors. They corresponded regularly in the mid-1870s. Andrew Spence was the Secretary Treasurer of the local school from its foundation in 1873 -- “High Bluff School Board 1873: Minutes and Account Book” Portage Collegiate Institute Library. I would like to thank James Kostuchuk who showed me this material.

Spence signed several of these letters “your dear friend,” or “your effect [affectionate?] friend.” His tone became urgent after the grasshopper disaster and, by December 1875, he was desperate and appealing for help. Without “the loan of a few hundred dollars,” he feared that he would not be able to plant a crop in the spring. Spence to Norquay, 6 December 1875, NPP, A – 172. Spence began to think of moving west and, in the interim, hoped that Norquay would give him a job as a freighter. A drinking episode at the 1875 Portage fair pushed Spence to make a confession that said volumes about their relationship: “I earnestly hope that you will not see me in such a state again. I felt very much ashamed when in Winnipeg last[.] I wished to see you and at the same time felt very akward [sic] about it. And when you treated me as you did as if nothing transpired in my conduct towards you I felt or [sic] the more humiliated. And for this reason I have joined the BAGT [Templars] at Portage la Prairie.”

As their lives diverged, their friendship grew strained. In 1878 Spence wrote encouragingly about Norquay’s political position and added a note concerning his own recent bereavement: “I feel the loss of a true and loving mother[.] After all it’s a hard thing to be deprived of one…whom you know cares for you. But such is the way of all the world. You said you were to be up [to High Bluff] soon. I wish you would come. You would be a great treat to me just now. I remain your friend for ever, Andrew Spence” Andrew Spence to Norquay, 26 February and 20 June 1878, NPP, A - 33: “I travelled with Sandy [Alex] Murry: “he talks very favourably of your return as member for Selkirk at the same time he can’t see how the Local Gov is to stand without you the Davis Gov would never stand and on that side you may expect little support. However you have ability enough to carry your own views among them[.] Sam Dalzell wants the mortgage discharge of Halcrow lot that he bought – don’t forget.

He then mentioned his mother’s death: “I feel the loss of a true and loving mother after all it’s a hard thing to be deprived of one …whom you know cares for you. But such is the way of all the world. You said you were to be up soon. I wish you would come. You would be a great treat to me just now. I remain your friend for ever, Andrew Spence”

His next letter, a year later, was cooler, more insistent: “My dear Norquay[:] In your influential and exalted position could you not procure for me an office in the N.W. say an Indian agent or some fat office or other. I think I can safely be presumtous [sic] enough in this respect as I have ever been your dutiful and obedient supporter. If you don't aid me I think I may have a hard run of it in the future. I hope Betsy & yourself and family are all well. I remain yours Faithfully[,] Andrew Spence P.S. I'm sorry that I have to remind you of your duty to your friend.” The relationship had cooled. Andrew Spence to Norquay 1 August 1879, NPP, A - 377

Mention of debts: Spence mortgaged his property at High Bluff, then saw a hoped-for windfall vanish when the transcontinental railway did not place a station on his land. Spence admonished Norquay for not staying at his house during the premier’s visit to the parish in 1881: “I was very sorry I could not have you a night to mself [sic] when [you came] up [to High Bluff.] I felt hurt very much[.] I am sure you always new [sic] that I have used you and confided in you as my only friend in this world. I hope these few lines will meet your harty [sic] approval and that you may overlook any imperfectness which you see and know of me. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain your Friend[,] Most Respectfully[,] Andrew Spence." Andrew Spence (High Bluff) to Norquay, 5 September 1881, NPP, A – 769

In the following year, Spence’s letters were less generous, more assertive. He was facing a financial crisis once again and looking desperately for cash. Norquay’s brother-in-law relayed some gossip about Spence’s situation: “Hargrave tells me A. Spence's property is heavily mortgaged & must be about in for $1000.00[.] please will you [Norquay] be on guard.” Eventually, Spence chose to head west to the Saskatchewan country in hopes of making a new start.

Norquay’s letter to Spence in March, 1885.

Spence had received Norquay’s letter of 27 March but had not replied. He then wrote to Norquay on 24 November, the week after Riel was hanged. His letter was a direct reply to the premier’s missive of late March. Spence denied that their friendship had ended. Andrew Spence to Norquay, 24 November 1885, NPP, C – 1229[b]

**Other (Spence):**

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| G 8705 | C - 1116 | Sept. 10, 1885 | Telegram | Keele, F.S. | Poplar Point, Man. | Norquay, John | Stating David Spence has received a serious gun shot injury and is going to hospital. No action. |

[as above – and then] “…Please make arrangements.”

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| G 8705 | | C - 1197 | | Sept. 16, 1885 | | Receipt | | Winnipeg General Hospital | | City (Winnipeg) | | Norquay, John | | Re: David Spence. To Private Ward for 6 days $15.00. No action. | |
| G 8705 | | C - 1197 | | Sept. 16, 1885 | | Receipt | | Winnipeg General Hospital | | City (Winnipeg) | | Norquay, John | | Re: David Spence. To Private Ward for 6 days $15.00. No action. | |

For David Spence (deceased) Please remit to Clerk of the Directors

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| G 8705 | C - 1313 | April 16, 1886 | Letter | Bannerman, S. | Poplar Point | Norquay, John | Joseph Spence's expected death. |

“Dear Mr. Norquay I have been requested by Joe’s boy to inform you that the Doctors have given up their father, they would like you come up and see him as he is not expected to last many days, he says that if you know how low he is you wd be sure to come. If you were to meet him you would not know him – tomorrow being Saturday you may have time. I will send a rig to the station to meet you.

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| G 8726 | C - 2201 | Nov. 26, 1886 | Letter | Collins, Thom. | Parkdale | Norquay, John | Re: Political feelings. |

“Dear Sir I find since our meeting at Parkdale a little predijuce [sic] feeling existing among a few of our party that I cannot say positively you are sure of

Name here I quote: James Spence Francis Gibbson and Tulloch

The only jelousy [sic] I can gather from them is that you drove by their places and did not call[.] I find so much conspiracy going on that I think you cannot afford loose [sic] one of your supporters if convenient I would wish you could call on these 3 parties as soon as possible I explained to them that you have so much to do and could not call upon every house.”

“I would like to see you before calling upon them.”

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| G 8725 | C - 1722 | Jan. 25 ? [1886] | Letter | Norquay, Bella,  cousin | Richland, Man. | Cousin [Norquay, John] | Private letter. |

“My dear cousin I am glad to tell you we got home all right but I think I and baby would have froze if Auntie did not send those things[.] we had to face a storm part of the way and the wind was very cold[.] we never stopped [sic] till we got home and one of the horses is sick ever since[.] we found every one well when we came home but the girls hardly care for baby now[.] they were quite contented all the time I was away[.] I got a letter last night from Annie McKenzie and I wrote to Flora since I came home but it has been so stormy I did not get it posted[.] I am thinking long since I came home I don’t know if I will be able to stay home so long as I done before[.] I am uneasy about Flora all the time[.] I am afraid papa will begin to drink again[.] I hardly know what to tell you there is nothing that would interest you much out here[.] Carrie’s drawers fit her as well as if you had her there to go by and Willie’s were just an inch to [too] long but I fixed them up and they are as proud of them as can be.

I wish I could thank you and Auntie for your kindness to me and for all you gave me and I wish I will be able to do some thing for you yet but I can’t and I can only pray that God will bless you all forever. I can’t write any more just now so I will close with love to all I remain your loving cousin Bella”

**Chapter 13 John (Johnnie) McDonald**

**John James Setter to J Norquay, 1 April 1875 A – 187**

“Goodbye continue in same good old way & you will be happy. I was glad that you had joined BOGT. By the way I have a private lodge of my own & John McDonald K McKenzie & myself run the machine Andrew is going to join us, Keestaw John Jas”

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| A - 181 | Aug. 5, 1875 | Letter | MacDonald, John | High Bluff | Norquay, John | The Portage whiskey ring furious at the members of the Government and everyone who opposes holding an exhibition this fall. |

“My dear sir:

Old McBain has been here the other day and told me that you advised him to put an a/c against the Government for losses sustained while he was poundkeeper and wished me to make out such a/c….” Advise me please

“The Portage whiskey ring are furious at the members of the Govt, McKenzie and every other one who opposed holding an exhibition this fall and I am afraid that the most of the directors in this country will go for holding it. I have got old Whimster turned against but Andrew is as still as ever in favor of it. The only way to prevent it is by having the Directors from other parts of the province to attend on the 1st instant….

I remain

Wishing that your shadow may never grow less, Yours etc. John McDonald

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| A - 162 | Nov. 27, 1878 | Receipt | McDonald, John | [No Location] | Norquay, John | Receipt for (Detective duty) $2.50. |

“Received of J Norquay the sum of two dollars & fifty cents being part of expense incurred by me while employed in detective duty.

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| A - 22 | Nov. 29, 1878 | Letter | McDonald, John | High Bluff, Man. | Norquay, John | Congratulations upon his elevation to the head of the government. |

Roderick Campbell told me you thought I was opposed to you. Not so. “There is neither McKenzie, Cowan nor any other man in this country that I hold in as great esteem as I do you…” I always take your part. Perhaps only Dr. Cowan does not agree. “I think that you may count on old Kenneth McKenzie giving you a very fair support. You stand high in his estimation yet, though he has been in opposition to the Government for the last two years he passed a night here last week and expressed himself as having every confidence in your honesty.

A number of men have come here looking for my support … I said “that no man would even have my sympathy if he were opposed to your government.”

“… I believe that I am the first man in the county that drank to the health of the new Premier. I was at Alcock’s on my way down to Andrew’s and met Mr. Brown there who told me of the change. I at once treated and asked all who were present to pledge the new Premier and his Ministry which was done….”

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| G 8697 | A - 310 | Jan. 14, 1879 | Receipt | Norquay, John | City (Winnipeg) | Adams, George | Receipt for $180 - to be deposited at Merchants' Bank. |

JN note, as receipt, saying ‘received from George Adams, High Bluff, by the hands of John McDonald for deposit in Merchants Bank Wpg $80 in cash and $100 in cheque

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| A - 249 | Feb. 10, 1880 | Letter | McDonald, John | High Bluff | "Big John" [Norquay, John] | Apologizing for getting on a spree. |

“My dear ‘Big John’

It is an old saw that an open confession is good for the soul.

Well I got on a big spree last week at the Portage for two days what I never did in my life before, and as I know that I have a great many enemies politically and otherwise, I expect nothing else than there will be a complaint of the matter made to the Government so in the first place I make a complaint myself. I know that I have gone astray, and have no one to blame.

Had to guid advice but harket

I might hae by this time led a market

Or strutted in a bank and clarkit

My cash account.

But now half made, half fied, half clad, half sarket

I a’ the amount

But by a’ the powers above I shall never drink mair, my mind is fully made up to that, so that I claim your forgiveness once for all. I never again will ask it for the same reason, but enough of this.

I am glad to see that your Government is so well sustained. I intended going down and would have done so last week only for that cursed spree. And as it is now so near court time I put it until afterwards.

My wife and young ones are all well, hoping that this will find you and yours enjoying the [missing word]

You will observe by the calligraphy of these few lines that I am quite over my bout and sane, Believe me, Yours saint or sinner, Whatever you like to ca’ me, John McDonald

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| G 8703 | C - 496 | June 2, 1884 | Telegram | McDonald, John | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John | Re: Court House site. |

“Mayor McDonald is assailed by our friends and foes and has after consultation among some of our friends come to the conclusion to leave court house site with your Government Would be good if the matter were decided as soon as possible John McDonald”

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| G 8704 | C - 1008 | Sept. 3, 1885 | Letter | McDonald, Johnnie | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John | Wm. McLeod's wife going to Winnipeg to secure scrip. |

“Yours of the 1st instant re Wm. McLeod’s wife to hand yesterday. I went to Wm yesterday evening, gave him your letter, he realizes your kindness in taking such interest but he is afraid that his wife can’t go down he has only made a commencement cutting his grain and has no help but a fifteen year old boy of Mrs. Knotts, he will try and get someone to go down with her perhaps Mrs. Sinclair.

I told him whoever should go with her the best thing for them to do wd be to hire a cab to your office, and offered send my boy Donald with her in the event of his not getting any one else. Still I hear she cannot go as there is no one to look after the cows, cooking and so forth, is there no other way by which her evidence could be taken say before a J.P. or a commissioner.

Your visit up the last time has done a great deal of good. By your very able explanation of the charges that have been made a good many croakers have been silenced, and all sensible men are satisfied.”

Doubts that Martin can be re-elected – T.B. Millar would be best candidate if he would stand: “even the grittest Grits don’t seem very much inclined to substitute Greenway for Norquay.” Yours truly, Johnnie McDonald

“Old Kenny is against us body and sleeves. I have not seen him since the 13th August.”

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| G 8724 | C - 1371 | March 27, 1886 | Letter | McDonald, John | Portage la Prairie | Norquay, John | Re: Political sky in Portage la Prairie and elsewhere. |

Pleased with JN speech on HBR, (clears up conflicting reports of JN’s Emerson speech – “none of which were true”). Grits had been attacking JN, saying he was opposed to HBR.

We’re very happy with your “explanation…we feel more & more every day that you are the right man in the right place, and is of the material of which statesmen are made. I may tell you that the people of this part of the country is proud of you….”

Yours truly Johnnie”

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| G 8727 | C - 2390 | Dec. 9, 1886 | Telegram | McDonald, John | Portage la Prairie | Norquay, John | Congrats on results of election. |

[20:30] “Accept congratulations Elm River not heard from Joe 16 majority”

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| G 8726 | C - 2253 |  | Jan. 17, 1887 | Letter | Setter, Jno. James | Portage la Prairie | Norquay, John | Re: John Macdonald's actions in Elections. |

“Dear Sir John McDonald has just shown me a letter that he had written to you, expressing his surprize that any report to the effect that he had been working in the interest of K McK in Lakeside, that a person had been sent up to quietly investigate and report, that the person was satisfied that such was the case, &c.

“I advised him not to send it, as I did not believe a word of it, as his conduct thru’out the campaign was too pronounced to admit of any such conclusion, that I would write and ask you; then if he chose he could then make any explaination [sic] necessary, at present his writing was like one ‘fighting the air’ he has consented to do this.

“Kindly let me know if any such report was really made? And who by? I can asure [sic] you he feels hurt after the stand he took on all occasions, sometimes making it a personal matter, and when occasion presented itself making use of the – to the scotchman—all powerful argument, the ‘Galic,’ On receipt of yours he will give any explanation you may require or that the circumstances of the case demand… yours truly…”

[letterhead of Sheriff’s office, central judicial district]

**Chapter 14 James Whiteway**

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| A - 9 | June 6, 1878 | Letter | Whiteway, James | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John | The Scrip Power of Attorney Mr. N. filled for his wife never arrived. Asking for another. |

“Will you do me a favour the scrip power of attorney you filled for my wife’s scrip has never come to this office

If you please send another she will sign it there is a one of the blank form still in my letter box that you gave me you will much oblidge yours truly James Whiteway

Inside this letter is another, 6 June 1878: “Mr Norquay fill out the power of attorney to Dr. James Cowan Portage la Prairie who has kindly lent me a scrip since I began to write and you will oblidge send by Tuesday mail if possible James Whiteway”

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| G 8698 | A - 622 | June 27, 1880 | Letter | Whiteway, James | Peguis | Norquay, John | Re: Assessment on his land much too large. |  |

"Hon John This is to inform you that I got my assessment bill yesterday & I am going to tell you it is very unlike what you told me it would be last winter you said a cent on the acre & that my lot would not cost over 1.50 now Sir it is the very reverse it is 11.50 besides statute labor. Now what, I'll ask you for that big extra will you be so kind as put your hand in your pocket & send me the ten dollars to pay it with[.] what is to be done with all this money that is to be collected in this manner a great part into salaries I suppose etc. boy – look for example across the river things are there decent offices pay are small knowing as they do that people are poor now on the other hand down our way for a petty trumpery job 150, 250, 300, 400 dollars we know well you are just as much the head of the municipal council as you are of the local house & I'll tell you Mainly we want no tyranny rule wont stand it are willing to pay a fair & decent tax & no more, land behind are of as much value & more so than lands in front as the latter is worn out which you know well but it is said you want to compel us to sell out not yet boy send quick James Whiteway"

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| G 8699 | A - 854 | Nov. 7, 1881 | Letter | Whiteway, Jas. | Westbourne | Norquay, John | Re: Buying off Sophia Spence's claim. |  |

Rough paper, rough scrawl: "Hon John On my arrival here I got your letter and in answer I bought of Sophia Spence wife of Nicholas Spence Senior both being present the price is three dollars per acre.

Or perhaps you would be for giving a little more & still room plenty in a year or two for a good profit I want to sell out if I can & leave I hope you will answer soon I hear you are to be of to Ottawa again all well & trust it is the same with you & yours Yours Jas Whiteway"

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| G 8703 | C - 713 | Feb. 12, 1885 | Letter | Merchants' Bank | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Stating they have Discounted note for Mr. Whiteway referred to in your  [Mr. N.'s] favor of 11th inst. No action. |
| G 8703 | C - 734 | April 24, 1885 | Letter | Whiteway, James | Lake Winnipeg | Norquay, John | Asking Mr. N. to protect his note.  Action: Acknowledged receipt which was enclosed by Mr. N. & no copy kept. 29 April 1885. |

If I can’t get there in time to extend “that note” for another three months, “until the money comes from by Brother William will you be so kind as see to it for me that is for you to pay the interest for another term of three months…. I am awkwardly placed only us two and to leave my wife with the horses alone would not be right.”

**JN to Acton Burrows, 17 March 1885 [E291]** invitations to opening of the House: Mr and Mrs Scarth, Whitla, 2 x Colcleugh = 4, Capt Kennedy, Halloway, **Whiteway**, Ruttan, Mrs Bain, Bishop Young, Thos Sinclair and R Bullock Selkirk, Archdeacon Cowley and Mrs and Rev Mackenzie St Peters [8 from city, 21 from St Peters, St Andrews, Selkirk]. He then added 12 from city, chiefly civil servants and their wives – Pritchard, Ptolemy, Smith, Mitchell

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| G 8704 | C - 952 | May 15, 1885 | Letter | Merchants' Bank of Canada | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Mr. Jas. Whiteway's note for $60.00 falling due on 14th. No action. |

The note of Mr. Jas Whiteway for $60.00 which you endorsed for him was due yesterday and was not paid. I have written to Mr W. about it. In the meantime may I charge the amount to yourself. Yours truly A. Wickson, Asst Mgr

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| G 8726 | C - 2255(a) | May 3, 1886 | Letter | Dept. of Interior | Ottawa | Whiteway, James | Re: Land purchase & scrip. See L.B. p280. |

Re yours of 14 ult, and 30 Dec last, re scrip allegedly “misappropriated by William Sinclair” and an overpayment made by you (Whiteway) for land. The Minister cannot change the decision of the Land Board sent to you on 23 April/83.

Re power of attorney “which you gave to Wm Sinclair is a full & sufficient authority for delivering the scrip to Wm Sinclair and it mentioned particularly that it was give in order to enable Sinclair to apply for & receive the Scrip you were entitled to receive as a Half Breed head of a family. He regrets however it is was used for any purpose other than that for which you intended it and if it was improperly used, that your only recourse would be against Sinclair.”

Re payments on frac E ½ Sec 1.15.9W – you paid $105.97 for what was then supposed to be 105.97 acres but this was erroneous – instead 130 acres – hence further $24 which you were required to pay for the issue of the patent

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| G 8726 | C - 2255(b) | Jan. 15, 1887 | Letter | Burpe, F., Dominion Land Commission | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Re: J. Whitewall's claim for scrip. |

Re yours of 10 inst, on James Whiteway’s lost scrip. This has been investigated. Dept will not recognize the claim. He gave a power of attorney to Mr Sinclair authorizing latter to draw the scrip, and on file is Sinclair’s acknowledgment of the delivery of such scrip to Sinclair under that power of attorney.

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| G 8724 | C - 1553 | May 19, 1886 | Note | Whiteway, Jas. | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John ? | Asking what value has stone left with him and asking for temporary loan. |

Has that stone I left with you of any value? “I will be going to the lake soon and the Indian will be wishing to know what it is.

“Could you lend me twenty dollars would return it as soon as possible I am nearly out.”

Norquay’s secretary, Pritchard, **writing on behalf of John Whiteway, to Thos White Min of Interior, 29 July 1886 [LB4: 113-115]** re his and his wife’s claims to scrip ca. 1878 – of which he received only a portion and he now seeks “justice.”

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| G 8725 | C - 1804 | Oct. 13 & 25, 1886 | Letters | Whiteway, Jas. | Parkdale | Norquay, John | Political & otherwise. |

Ansd 18/10/86

Oct 13 86

Geo Lilly, Jno McDonald alias Buck, John LS Smith, James Monkman – will vote for you. Call at widow Hannah Cochrane, married to Samuel Marsh (Englishman) “I think you will get him if you meet him personally. Neestaw was to go down to the marsh among them all.”

“Well now what for me have you got an answer from that man that feeds with the spoon I was at the land office to see and there is nothing. You will have to give them both you and Brown a broadside from an 85 pounder before they will wake up. There is another rebellion coming….the past one was only a baby to the one that is to come so I am told so look out last time I spoke and wrote plenty not again if I had been a rebel I would have had my own before now pā yah tak

“I am going to the ducks….to see Mr. Marsh you fork of[f] at the big saw mill to the right on a small bridge.

“Mr Mills gave me the balance of my wifes scrip only mine now if ever and if never. Never may evil leave their door.

“I thought Jim Colcleugh was smarter than that but I think he will succeed yet in some way or the other ma-che-koo-chan yours truly JAs Whiteway

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| G 8726 | C - 2243 | Dec. 21, 1886 | Letter | Whiteway, James | Peguis, Man. | Norquay, John | Re: Scrip. |

“Hon John Hurra for the d—d Indian any how.[sic]

“Well I am now on the other side as sure as you live no humbug about it neither yourself nor the next devil will turn me if I don’t get my lost scrip more than that I’ll rebel and put your twopenny law to defiance I will pay no tax until such time as I become a born subject according the Manitoba Act So look out you are now in power again I hope do not leave your countrymen in the lurch as heretofore

“I want my scrip that is what I want and if not I am on the other side.”[insert] “and go with the foreigner in preference to your own kind See where you would have been if not for your fellow natives which have proved themselves to be equal and more than equal if the truth was known they won’t be quiet till they be made to shake in the breeks as they have done heretofore the English natives are called cowards all right but take care look out when the rabbit bites disaster sure. Yours truly Jas Whiteway”

[on back of letter]: “William Sinclair was then part & parcel of the Govt placed there to act between the Govt and the English speaking natives Goulet for the French speaking natives I hold the Govt are responsible always heretofore you have taken to the opposite side against me you are wrong. Jas Whiteway”

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| G 8726 | C - 2071 | Jan. 18, 1887 | Letter | Whiteway, Jas. | Brokenhead R. | Norquay, John | Re: Claim for scrip. |

“Hon John Yours of the 10th has just come to hand I thought I would make you speak you see I first see you safe and then fight you more than you or the next devil among you would do

Don’t you think that I will be alone I am 100 strong and my messengers has been despatched some time ago so among you hurry up & give me mine and I will recall them and fall into line also if not we will shake the Dom eh. [Dominion?] I am not in a position to forward a sworn statement that I think was done last summer by R. Goulet or something like it I can’t do more

We are passing a good winter in the way of living but a small trade so I will wish you every success in every respect fight your opponents & mind you were to oppose Sir John for ousting C Adams Andrew was never a Grit at heart give us our own and we are with you heart in hand as the old saying goes. If I don’t get my scrip I will vote dead against them. With best wishes, for you & yours, ….

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| G 8727 | C - 2549 | May 26, 1887 | Receipt | Bullock, Robt. | Selkirk | Norquay, John | Amount of a/c rendered $25.00. |

To order of James Whiteway $25.00 from dealer in dry goods and liquor, clothing

Dear Sir [JN] – please send cheque

**William MacLeod (McLeod)**

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| G 8701 | B - 42 | July 20, 1883 | Letter | McLeod, William | High Bluff, Man. | Norquay, John | Writing to Ottawa for patent for his lot.  Replied 23rd July 1883. See L.B."C" p.230. | 2 pp. |

“You were kind enough when up here at Mr. Black’s election to say you would interest yourself in regard to obtaining patent for my present lot.

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| G 8701 | B - 46 | July 21, 1883 | Letter | McLeod, William | High Bluff, MB. | Norquay, John | Patent of his lot. Replied 24 July. See L.B."C" p. 237. |  |

I moved to High Bluff in June/July 1871. Didn’t apply for patent bec govt had mortgage on my land – now 12 years have passed, it’s time. Sw ¼, S 11, Township 12, R6W, Wood lot 88

**8731 LB C:** **JN to Minister of Interior 23 July 1883, p230**: JN applies on behalf of Wm. McLeod of High Bluff for patent for SW ¼, Sec 11, Twp 12, R6 West. He occupied this land since 1871, has cultivated every acre of it, is entitled to the patent. [230]

**8731 LB C:** Then: if the Govt holds a mortgage on your land, that might cause delay: “I would advise you to get it removed as I know you are well able to. Hope you will soon receive the patent.” [**JN to Wm McLeod, 24 July 1883, p 237**] [case concluded happily 15 Aug 1883, p 260]

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| G 8705 | C - 1154 | Aug. 10, 1885 | Letter | MacLeod, William | High Bluff | Norquay, John | Re: Half Breed Scrip for wife. |

My wife is entitled to it – rough spelling, writing, prose. “My Dear John” please tell the commissioners “that you know her well and that she never got her half breed scrip yet”

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| G 8705 | C - 1169 | Sept. 1, 1885 | Letter | Forget, A.E. | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Re: Claim of Mrs. McLeod for scrip. |

“…if she is entitled to the Halfbreed Grant as a resident within the Province of Manitoba on 15th July 1870, she may at any time between now and 1st May 1886 put in her claim before the Land Commissioner here…” If NWT, no arrangement yet established.

“Mr Goulet will continue to receive claims here until the 9th inst. If it was possible for Mrs. Macleod to come now, it would of course be much safer. This suggestion I make, assuming that she is a North-West claimant.”

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| G 8704 | C - 1008 | Sept. 3, 1885 | Letter | McDonald, Johnnie | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John | Wm. McLeod's wife going to Winnipeg to secure scrip. |

“Yours of the 1st instant re Wm. McLeod’s wife to hand yesterday. I went to Wm yesterday evening, gave him your letter, he realizes your kindness in taking such interest but he is afraid that his wife can’t go down he has only made a commencement cutting his grain and has no help but a fifteen year old boy of Mrs. Knotts, he will try and get someone to go down with her perhaps Mrs. Sinclair.

I told him whoever should go with her the best thing for them to do wd be to hire a cab to your office, and offered send my boy Donald with her in the event of his not getting any one else. Still I hear she cannot go as there is no one to look after the cows, cooking and so forth, is there no other way by which her evidence could be taken say before a J.P. or a commissioner.

Your visit up the last time has done a great deal of good. By your very able explanation of the charges that have been made a good many croakers have been silenced, and all sensible men are satisfied.”

Doubts that Martin can be re-elected – T.B. Millar would be best candidate if he would stand: “even the grittest Grits don’t seem very much inclined to substitute Greenway for Norquay.” Yours truly, Johnnie McDonald

“Old Kenny is against us body and sleeves. I have not seen him since the 13th August.”

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| G 8704 | C - 1008 | Sept. 3, 1885 | Letter | McDonald, Johnnie | Portage la Prairie, Man. | Norquay, John | Wm. McLeod's wife going to Winnipeg to secure scrip. |

“Yours of the 1st instant re Wm. McLeod’s wife to hand yesterday. I went to Wm yesterday evening, gave him your letter, he realizes your kindness in taking such interest but he is afraid that his wife can’t go down he has only made a commencement cutting his grain and has no help but a fifteen year old boy of Mrs. Knotts, he will try and get someone to go down with her perhaps Mrs. Sinclair.

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| G 8705 |  | C - 1166 | Sept. 4, 1885 | Letter | MacLeod, William | High Bluff | Norquay, John | His wife is going to Winnipeg to draw scrip. |

“My dear friend I have to in form you that my wife is to go to Winnipeg on Mondays train If you could possable meat hir at the staison as she has no frinds at Winnipeg and never was there before[.] my friend I can ashure that it is a great trouble to both of us just now in the mittle of harvest I hope that she will get the money in state [instead] of the land

I remain yours truly Wm MacLeod

**JN to Wm MacLeod, High Bluff 15 Sept 1885 [E673]** re your wife’s claim to a grant and the right you would have to a grant for the child who died and would be entitled to a grant. Please send certificate of the death of the child.

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| G 8705 | C - 1169 | Sept. 1, 1885 | Letter | Forget, A.E. | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Re: Claim of **Mrs. McLeod** for scrip. |

“…if she is entitled to the Halfbreed Grant as a resident within the Province of Manitoba on 15th July 1870, she may at any time between now and 1st May 1886 put in her claim before the Land Commissioner here…” If NWT, no arrangement yet established.

“Mr Goulet will continue to receive claims here until the 9th inst. If it was possible for Mrs. Macleod to come now, it would of course be much safer. This suggestion I make, assuming that she is a North-West claimant.”

On another occasion Norquay answered George Tidsbury’s sharp criticism of the government’s taxation with soft words:“thanks for your note conveying public opinion on taxes. I take your criticisms as I know they are meant in kindness. I shall be only too happy to conform my action [to] the will of the people.” Norquay to George Tidsbury (High Bluff) 30 January 1885, NPP, Letterbook E, pp134-35

**17 Joe Favell**

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| A - 236 | Dec. 14, 1879 | Letter | Favell, Joe Jr. | Victoria, Sask. | Norquay, John | Asking Mr. N. to send him some garden seeds. |

Hon J. Norquay Dear Sir [lined, one page, slightly awkward uncertain handwriting]

I now take the pleasure of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am quite well @ present thank the Lord for his goodness wishing you all the same I aught to be very thankfull to you for being able to set down and write as I do whereas if I had been brought out here when a child on this part of the world I soppose I would be seting along side of somebody telling him what to write as I see lots of men do out here

I have no strange news to tell you I soppose although you are so far away from here you here the news of this country as soon as we do seeing the mail runs weekly you may say and the telegraph hourly or dayly may it not insult your honour for what I am now attempting to ask frome you I would like if you would be so kind as send me a few garden seeds it is hard to get them here I can get some out here but they are old and damaged Some of them don’t grow So I will close wishing that these few lines may reache you and be accepted by you seeing it is the first time I am writing to you may you be so kind as answer

Your Most OBT S

Joe Favell Junr

**18 William Pruden (and other Prudens)**

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| G 8698 | A - 470 | Sept. 14, 1880 | Letter | Pruden, John P. | Selkirk, Man. | Cousin [Norquay, John] | Getting some moss for Mr. Bannatyne. |  |

"Dear Cousin I supose [sic] you are aware that I have to get the Moss for Mr Bannatyne as I expect – my father wrote me before leaving Winnipeg that I was to get thirty sacks of moss in two weeks from the time he started and deliver to Mr Bannatyne's or Store. So I started out to Brokenhead River last Thursday morning to get the moss and after geting there the weather turned out so bad that it detained me till Monday morning So you see this is where the delay is I left the Boat out there to the Indian I expect him up with the moss tomorrow morning As soon as it comes I will take it right up to Winnipeg I supose you will now [know] best what to do wheather to let Mr Bannatyne know or not if you please Your truly John P Pruden

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| G 8698 | A - 469 | Sept. 5, 1880 | Letter | [Begg, Alexander] | Chicago, Illinois | Norquay, John | All different matters of business. | 5 pp. |

Letterhead of "The Grand Pacific Hotel, Jno Drake & Co Proprietors"

"My Dear Mr Norquay We reached here this morning & have to stay here till tonight. I have put up at the Grand Pacific to show William [Pruden – see Ogilvie letter, 20 Sept 1880] the wonders. You never saw anyone so amazed as he is – he is perfectly wonder-struck and will not move away from a spot without me he is so simple-minded that he amuses me but he is a very intelligent man and keeps notes of everything in a book – he is a fine fellow and the more I see of him the better I like him. I impress upon him the fact that it is your desire that he be well taken care of and shown everything as a mark of love from you to your own people, and I will follow that up – for it is Lisgar I'm after for you ---

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| G 8698 | A - 474 | Sept. 20, 1880 | Letter | Ogilvie, W.W. | Montreal, Que. | Norquay, John | Introducing Capt. I.W. Vivian of London, Eng. |  |

"My Dear Norquay I take advantage of our friendship and introduce to you Captn J. W. Vivian [?] of London England who visits Manitoba with the intention of settling and no one can give him so much information or good advice as you can, he may not wish to begin before next spring. If so try to get him a good place to board down the river for the winter with a good farmer where he can learn something of farming, or you might be able to get him employment of some kind for the winter, as he is very anxious to do something. His brother in law is one of the largest grain men in London and buys largely from us, so the Captain may yet be able to do a wheat business in Manitoba.

William Pruden is having a big time of it, I drove him to Lachine yesterday and he enjoyed it very much. He will give you all the news on his return. You did bravely in Selkirk and have done yourselves credit that will not soon be forgotten.

Mrs. Ogilvie is much improved by her trip to Manitoba. Kindest regards to all.

Yours very truly W.W. Ogilvie

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| G 8700 | A - 1232 | July 10, 1882 | Letter | Bain, A., Scottish, Ontario and Manitoba Land Co. | City (Winnipeg) | Pruden, Wm. | Referring him to Mr. N. for money. |  |

32 Toronto St, Winnipeg agency – Bain to Wm Pruden, Selkirk:

“My dear Sir: Like other real estate men in town just now I am hard up & I cannot get any more money from the banks. Mr Norquay however is back & he could fix the thing for you if you wrote him. Yours etc. A Bain”

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| G 8699 | A - 977 | July 13, 1882 | Letter | Pruden, William | Selkirk, Man. | Norquay, John | Asking Mr. N. to loan him $50.00. |  |

I need a loan of $50 for six months – for shingles for my house.

"My family are all quite well times are very dull in Selkirk nothing doing. I had a loss of about 150 dollars worth of wood by fire this spring. I had cut the wood to buy my shingles so that puts me out of that calculation. Our crops are looking pretty fair potatoes are doing well. Very little garden this year. We are getting lots of good catfish that does not go so bad with potatoes. Hoping you are well. Kind regards to you, your ever true frend William Pruden"

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| G 8700 | A - 1506 | July 19, 1882 | Receipt | Pruden, Edward | [No Location] | Norquay, John | Receipt for £10.00 for John Isbister. | No Cover |

Received from John Norquay a cheque of ten pounds of A K Isbister for John Isbister of St Paul’s sgd for John by Edward Pruden

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| G 8704 | C - 803 | Jan. 27, 1884 | Letter | Colcleugh, James | Selkirk | Norquay, John | Re: Lot 244, etc. Dealt with by Mr. N. when at Ottawa. |

“My dear Norquay On the memorandum I gave you the first Lot 242 has been patented. On looking over my papers I see it has been confounded with Lot 244 which latter is the one I got from Jacob Spence and in the department it appears as applied for by him. I wish you could get the Bailey lot (31) shoved through for me I want to use it. Lot 30 claimed by Johnie Clarke at Lower Fort has never been applied for see what shape it is in at the Department If you could get that it is the prettiest lot on the river lies just between the Bailey lot and John Pruden’s. Hope you will get my wood business fixed and have my bond released. Hudson Bay Ry excitement keeps hot. The whole country anxiously waiting the result of your mission. Shove it to them strong and you will be backed. By the bye I hear a whisper that the supplementary ½ breed list would be allotted this session. Now they could be picked up pretty cheap if there was a certainty that they would be dealt with soon. Worthwhile inquiring – Get a list of St. Andrew, St Clements & St Peters. Yours, James Colcleugh”

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| G 8702 | C - 160 | July 26, 1884 | Letter | Douglas, P.B. for the  Minister of Interior | Ottawa, Ont. | Norquay, John | Acknowledging receipt of letter of 9th ult. Enclosing Quit Claim deeds re: Pruden Section 9 Twp. 16-6-E. |  |

Min of Interior acknowledges receipt of your letter, 9th ult, accompanying 2 deeds John Pruden and Peter Pruden to Wm Pruden, in support of latter’s claim to a patent of Section 9 – Tp 16-6-E. “…the application will be submitted to the Department of Justice for opinion as to title.”

**JN to Sir David McPherson, Min of Interior 11 May 1885 [E419]**

I apply to purchase sw ¼ of S15, Twp16, Range 6 East. “I understand that there are only thirteen acres of land in the section and that it is part of the South West Quarter the right to purchase which I apply for….” What wld the govt accept per acre for the 13 acres of the above quarter-section referred to?

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| G 8704 | C - 1046 | May 28, 1885 | Letter | Minister of Interior | Ottawa, Ont. | Norquay, John | Re: Application to purchase portion of SW 1/4 of  Sec.15 Tp.16 R6 East. |

Received your letter of 11th inst “making application to purchase that portion of the SW¼ of Sec 15 – Tp 16—R 6 East, not covered by Pruden’s Bay, and in reply to say that if you can satisfy the Commissioner of Dominion Lands that there are no squatters upon that piece of land, he is authorized to sell it to you at $2.50 per acre.”

**JN to Wm Pruden, St James 19 June 1885 [E525**] the above land is for sale at $2.50/acre – that is, “the portion that is not covered by Prudens Bay and I have been informed that I have the privilege of buying it at that rate, if I can prove to the satisfaction of the Minister of the Interior that there is no squatters on it. As I wrote to the Department on your behalf I hope you will furnish me with the required information to forward and the necessary money to pay for the number of acres included in this bit of land at the rate specified, if you require it.”

**JN to “My dear Willam” 23 Sept 1885 [E683]** I am mailing you copy of letter I received as your permission to purchase the fractional homestead

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| G 8724 | C - 1506 | Feb. 3, 1886 | Letter | Pruden, Wm. | P.O. West Selkirk | Norquay, John | Re: Change of land belonging to his son Thomas. |

Pls use your influence with Govt “to effect an exchange of the land he now holds viz 240 acres Range 2 East of Principal Meridian Section SouthEast ¼ of 25 in this province county of Lisgar for 160 acres in the immediate neighborhood of Poplar Point T.16 Sec. 9. Range 6. My reasons for wishing to effect this exchange if it is possible are that my son Thomas may be located near to the claims held by my other 2 sons Willie & Jacob. So that each may help along the other.

“We are all well here. Everything in this neighborhood is quiet – but we are all waiting for the Hudson Bay Road to start – when I hope times will brighten up. Believe me, Respectfully yours, Wm. Pruden”

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| G 8705 | C - 1273 | July 22, 1886 | Letter | Bain, Mulock & Co. | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Hallet, Fidler re Pruden's claim. |

To JN as Provl Treasurer: re yours of 21st, we will furnish further information as necessary

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| G 8725 | C - 1878 | Sept. 1, 1886 | Letter | Cantlie, L.W. | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Re: Mrs. Pruden's claim. |

Re your letter of 30 August, enclosing Bain Mulock note re claim under court mortgage in Hallett Vs. Fidler (Mrs. Pruden’s claim). These gentlemen have been instructed how to proceed.

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| G 8726 | C - 2240 | Jan. 11, 1887 | Letter | Young, Dr. | Selkirk | Norquay, John | Re: Wm. Pruden. |

“I wrote to Cantlie [Coutlie?] on the 4th inst in reference to Wm Pruden I think as you do that we could not have a better man if we can satisfy him.

If you are enquiring at the Atty Genl’s office about this matter you might also ask them about a letter I wrote to the Atty Genl in August last about being allowed home rent.

“I do not know when I was as hard up as I am now and never required to be better off.”

“If you will come down I will give you a dance. Where is Tom?” Yours faithfully D Young

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| G 8727 | C - 2512 | Jan. 28, 1887 | Letter | Pruden, Wm. | West Selkirk | Norquay, John | Re: Appointment at Asylum. |

When can I begin my duties? “When I brought down the letter you gave me about a month ago for Dr. Young he told me that he was glad to get my services but before I could start working he would have to write to the Attorney General….Could you so hurry the thing up…”

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| G 8729 | No # | May 14, 1887 | Letter | Pruden, Wm. | PO West Selkirk | Norquay, John | Asking receipt of cheque from Treasury Dept. |

The cheque for my work has arrived – thanks for looking into it for me. “I wish now to address on a few points that I could not do to-day owing to your press of time.” He raises matters of the farm and garden mngmt at the asylum.

**18 Joseph Tait**

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| G 8725 | C - 1795 | Sept. 20, 1886 | Letter | Tait, Joseph | [No Location] | Norquay, John |  |  | Re: Election matters. |

Probably St. Andrews – great grass roots St. A. style, scrappy, half-page, rough penmanship:

“Sep the 20 Honor Premier Dear sir I drop you this few lines to let you know that I am having many a battle with the tongue on election this while back[.] I don’t know if you would fight for me as I am doing for you this while back there [.] I hardly have a friend [sic] round me I am […] with talking at last sometimes[.] Oh boy this is the time for a little to warm my breast to make me talk a little better but I am too poor to have some [whisky presumably] people round here say you are getting too rich with government money that its time to put you down but I say no[,] that I am glad that my country boy is the head of the government[.] keep the dam Canadians down boy[.] they are only jealous of you that’s what I tell them[.] I hope you will get elected and I will have my fun at them[.] I was down at St Andrews they were nearly getting my head broken[.] my wife joins me in sending our kindest regards to you and wife & family and accept the same yourself yours ever Joseph Tait

[additional page]: “excuse my bad writing I cannot have enough paper to write a letter I am so dam poor[.] I have a bad cough I doubt that is going to be the end of me now never mind good bye for the present Joseph Tait

Tell me what is the news of the day when you write”

Annotation: “Ansd 30/9/86”

**19 Baptist Spence**

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| A - 174 | June 16, 1875 | Letter | Spence, Baptist | White Mud River | Norquay, John | Asking Mr. Norquay to fulfill his promise and come up and see his place. |

Hon. John Norquay

Sir I have been waiting this long time for you to come and see my place according to promise when I last saw you in Town. You then told me not to dispose of my place until you came up to see it. Now it is a long time since, and I don’t know what to do. I would like to go on the Reserve and at the same time I don’t like to leave my place without getting something for my labour and improvement. I would be obliged if you would let me know soon without fail what your intentions are. …so I would like to see you up here we are wronged by the Canadians to a great extent….”

Yours truly Baptist Spence

**20 James McKay**

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| A - 20 | June 27, 1878 | Letter | McKay, James | Deer Lodge, St. James, Man. | Norquay, John | Asking that his friend John Parr [Power] be appointed Provincial Constable. |

John Power, brother of Richard, wishes to get on the Provincial Police Force. “I would feel much obliged to you by giving him your support to effect this, I have not troubled any of my Colleagues, for any appointment heretofore, and as this may be the last opportunity I may have of recommending anyone, I certainly would feel indebted to you to use your interest in his behalf. He is a sober and industrious young man and will make an efficient Constable.

Many thank for your kindness in sending me the Beautiful Picture of Lady Ellen Blackwood. I value it very much. J McK

[written by a secretary, signed awkwardly by JMcK – much heavier paper than below]

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| A - 21 | Nov. 25, 1878 | Letter | McKay, James | St. James, Man. | Norquay, John | Stating he will be down to the Polling Place early. |

Have just received yours, will try to be at polling place early, even the evening before. “I might be able to see some of my old friends, and those that are on a balance I might be able to bring over to the right side. I feel pretty well though the late weather has left some symptoms of my complaint in my hands and feet….I wish you all success….

[a single embossed fleur de lis (stamped into the paper, no ink), in upper left corner, on lined plainly-made one-fold paper]

**21 A.G.B. Bannatyne**

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| G 8703 | C - 683 | Monday n.d. 1885 | Letter | Bannatyne, A.G.B. | City (Winnipeg) | Norquay, John | Election matters (Winnipeg South). No action. |

“My dear Norquay I just recd yours. John Lane will be all right & you can count on him. Regarding Jemmi, I have done all I could without going, as I thought too far but have put his mother & Mrs. Donaldson on his track.

Altho’ not known to be working I will do all I can for you, but there are some fellows among our country men you can never be sure of until you have them.

Is there no way you could reach John Bourke? Change him you can get some others, but you have to be careful with him. Yours very sincerely, A.G.B. Bannatyne”

**22 John Ross**

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| A - 177 | Sept. 8, 1875 | Letter | Ross, John | [No Location]High Bluff? | Norquay, John | Asking Mr. N. if he is coming out to bring his gun. |

Dear Jack:

…Well I am still cutting hay We have 400 lods [loads] cut but not built. We will have it all built this week. Wont the prairie chickens get a Haven. I hear that you were talking of coming out if you com next week I wish you would bring out my gun from Chambers that is hes gote it fixt …he fixt it once before so it did not stand so he told me to bring it in and he would fix it free of charge….If he wants to fus [sic] about it don’t bother your self ….Another thing I killed a fat sheep and want you to get some. Maggie said to keep som prouens [prunes?] for you….I ate so meany [many] yesterday you will gease [sic] the result I wount [sic] tell you know I keep them till I See you. So that we will both enjoy the fun, if you have the Act 1875 bring it out so good night I remain yours truly John Ross

Maggie gives her best respects to Betsey

**24 J. W. Taylor to Secretary of State Seward, 21 March and 26 March 1878, US Consul papers**.

James Wickes Taylor, American consul in Manitoba, became an enthusiastic supporter of Norquay during two decades reporting to Washington on the potential for annexation of Canada’s western frontier. He also became a supporter of the Métis. In a dispatch to Washington written in 1878, he warned of conflict between Indigenous peoples and the incoming whites. His explanation centred on a new law introduced by the Council of the North-West Territories “for the protection of the buffalo.” His comment: “If an Indian war, with all its attendant horrors, is avoided, it will be attributable to a circumstance peculiar to the region… and without a parallel in the Western Territories of the United States. I refer to the extensive intermarriage of the English, Scotch and French residents – prominently the officers and employees of the Hudson Bay Company – with Indian women, diffusing over the whole country in the lapse of several generations a population of Metis or Mixed Bloods equal in number to the Indians, and exerting over their aboriginal kindred a degree of moral and physical control which I find it difficult to illustrate but which I regard as a happy Providence for the Dominion of Canada. The hunter class of this population unquestionably share to the fullest extent the sentiment of hostility to the Buffalo Game Law: but their intelligent leaders, and the educated body of Metis everywhere, will restrain violence or excess; and in the event of Indian hostilities, will constitute an indispensable reinforcement to the Mounted Police.” He added that both Sitting Bull and Big Bear rejected the Buffalo Law – Big Bear “says it is useless for the government to govern the Indians as long as they put Indians in gaol for killing buffalo.”

**25 William Wagner’s letter to John A. Macdonald 1885**

**William Wagner (Ossowo, MB) to John A. Macdonald 18 May 1885 #46072-75 (partial text)**: says he is writing on “a very serious matter” – during this time of “trouble or riot in the N. W.” – occasioned by “the Canadian characteristic – laisser faire – and wish for peace that gave permission to the existence of a man cowardly in his character who has been used the second time as a tool by more conniving parties from outside.”

Dewdney is “too much of a gentleman and never can be an associate with the Halfbreed or Indian population of the North West – but since if Mr Rumour is correct that you have given to Norquay a promise of some kind – either Minister of Interior or Lt Governor of some of the North-West provinces – make Norquay a Lt Governor of Alberta – similis simile gaudet [like delights in like, or birds of a feather flock together??] – Norquay comes from a race of men and brought up amongst them who only in some few instances perhaps in the third generation may achieve that necessary kind of easy politesse – which we expect from an educated man born on a carpet – but by N. the mocassin [sic] will show itself through the finest patent leather boot, you may do what you like.

N. is attached to his family, as all of us are, and I think it would be a cruelty to bring him to Ottawa alone without his family, and Mrs. N. and daughter would be cutting a sore figure amongst Ottawa society – which of course would hurt his feelings.”

N. speaks English, French, Cree, bongie [sic: Bungee] and some Sioux[.] He is a very social man [in] particular amongst his own kind[,] I can see him smoking his pipe of peace with Mr. Poundmaker…. which will help you a good deal. The whole fraternity of the Red River settlement would glorify over it and the Grits be satisfied that a Manitoba man is raised to the vice-regal chair.

Now my last reason is that N. never was nor is he a faithfull [sic] friend to you and I sooner will follow a less able speaker but more true man to our cause – and this is also my strongest reason why I would not advise to take N. into your cabinet. After my crops are all in I shall come to Ottawa and be able to tell you more.

I have the honor with much respect, Sir, your faithful William Wagner