

Henry Robert Sayer (1784-1869)

Henry Sayer was the son of John Sayer¹ a North West Company partner who traded in the west Lake Superior area. His mother was Obemauunoqua (Marguerite), the daughter Mamongazida (Big Foot) an Ojibway.² Henry married Marie Cameron (1792-1872) and moved east of Sault Ste. Marie, they had the following children:

- John Sayer b: 1811
- Edward Sayer b: 1814
- Margret Sayer b: 1816
- Robert Sayer b: 1818
- Toussaint Michael Sayer b: 1821 in Red River, Manitoba
- Mary Sayer b: 1822
- Christin Sayer b: 1825
- George Sayer b: 1832 in Ontario, Canada
- Robert H. R. Sayer b: 1834
- Jane Sayer b: 1836

Henry Sayer, the Métis son of John Sayer worked at Whitefish Lake. He left the HBC because he was underpaid and in 1830-31 established at Saguingue under Dr. Mitchell.

The United States government made a treaty with the Ojibway of the Fond du Lac region in 1826. It is known as Treaty #133 - Treaty of Fond du Lac of Lake Superior with the Chippewa, August 5, 1826.

Article #4 was written to provide for the Métis members of the tribe and the names of those implicated are listed at the end. The list mentions Obemau unoqua and two of her children:

- To Henry Sayer and John Sayer, sons of Obemau unoqua, each one section.

¹ In 1791, the North West Company established a fur-trading post south of the St. Mary's River. John Sayer then forms the John Sayer and Company and becomes an agent of the North West Company at Sault Ste. Marie on the south side of the St. Mary's River. In the fall of 1804, John Sayer, a partner of the North West Company and his crew departed from Fort St. Louis, near modern-day Superior, Wisconsin. Sayer originally intended to build a post near Cross Lake, but the location for his wintering operations changed to a site two miles up the Snake River, after he conferred with local Ojibway leaders. The exact period of the post's operation remains a mystery, but recent research indicates the post saw several seasons of operation. Sometime after the post was abandoned it was destroyed by fire. Today, the North West Company Fur Post, a reconstruction of John Sayer's post, is owned and operated by the Minnesota Historical Society. The site consists of approximately 93 acres on the north and south sides of the Snake River, with the historic reconstruction on the south side.

² Big Foot aka Loon's Foot Mamongazida was born around 1727 in Lapointe. His father was No-ka or Nokay and his Ojibwa mother (unnamed) had previously been married to Snow Mountain Wabasha (a Dakota). Mamongazida often travelled to Quebec and had fought against the British with Montcalm at the Plains of Abraham in 1759.

According to the Hudson Bay Company Archives, Henry worked as follows:

North West Company:

1801 - 1805 - worked as a clerk
1811- 1817 - worked at Nipissing
1819 - worked at Sault Ste. Marie, Lac Des Isles
1820 - worked at Fort William

Hudson's Bay Company:

1821- 1822 - Clerk in Charge of the District of Island Lake
1822 - Travelled to Fort William, ordered discharged to Montreal. Resolved to fine him one year's salary for disobeying orders by going to Fort William in 1822, rather than to York Factory.
1824 - Unwell
1827- 1830 - Clerk in Charge of Isle au Sable on Lake Huron
1830 - Clerk in Charge of Whitefish Lake on Lake Huron
1830 - Retired, in employ of Andrew Mitchell, Sagingue, Mississagi, Lake Huron
1845- 1862 - Clerk in Charge of Mississagi on Lake Huron
1862 - Operating as opposition at Mississagi, Lake Huron
1862- 1871 - Paid his yearly share of profits

His birthdate is likely 1784, for according to his tombstone located on the Sayer Property, at the Village of Mississagi near Blind River, Ontario he was 85 years of age at time of death in 1869. Mississauga is about a couple of miles west of Blind River. On one side of the highway is the Mississauga Reserve and on the left side of the road was once the Sayer Property but now it is crown land. Back in the 1800's there was once a Hudson Bay Post. There is a cemetery overgrown with bush that has the grave stones of Henry, Mary, Edward and Jane.

The children of Henry Sayer and Margaret C. Cameron are:

1. John Sayer b: 1810
2. John Sayer b: 1811
3. Edward Sayer b: 1814
4. Margaret Sayer b: 1816
5. Robert Sayer b: 1818
6. Toussaint Michael Sayer b: 1821 in Red River, Manitoba
7. Mary Sayer b: 1822
8. Christen Sayer b: 1825
9. George Sayer b: 1832 in Ontario, Canada
10. H.R. Sayer b: 1834
11. Jane Sayer b: 1836



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