



Manitoba Indigenous Tuberculosis History Project



21 June 2022

The information contained in this document is the result of a collaboration between [Sioux Valley Dakota Nation](#) (SVDN) and the [Manitoba Indigenous Tuberculosis History Project](#) (MITHP). This work is ongoing. We will provide updates when new information becomes available.

If you are thinking of visiting SVDN, or would like to contact someone there about patient burials in the SVDN cemetery, you can contact SVDN's Climate Change and Special Projects Coordinator:

Climate Change and Special Projects Coordinator

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HISTORY: About the Burials of Brandon Sanatorium Patients on the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Reserve

The Brandon Indian Sanatorium opened in 1947 and operated primarily as a tuberculosis (TB) hospital for Indigenous patients until 1961, when the last TB patients were transferred to the nearby Ninette Sanatorium. Thereafter the buildings housed the Assiniboine Rehabilitation Hospital until it relocated to new quarters in 1974. Indigenous patients with other ailments and some non-Indigenous patients were admitted to the hospital during its operation.

Patients at the Brandon Indian Sanatorium came from all over Manitoba, from Saskatchewan, north-western Ontario, and the North-West Territories. Inuit patients from different areas of the Arctic were sent to the Brandon Sanatorium, as were residential school students, including some from the nearby Brandon Indian Residential School (BIRS). Historical accounts from residential school survivors tell us that students who ran away from the BIRS were sent to the Sanatorium for punishment; healthy students sent to the Sanatorium sometimes ended up contracting tuberculosis or other illnesses during their stay.

Based on early findings, researchers believe that the federal government started sending deceased patients from the Brandon Sanatorium to Sioux Valley (SVDN) for burial in the Anglican cemetery on the reserve beginning in early 1950. Prior to 1950, patients whose remains were not sent to their home communities were buried in the Brandon Municipal Cemetery. Some patients who passed away after the Sioux Valley cemetery was no longer being used for patient burial appear to have been buried in the Brandon Municipal Cemetery, as well. The shift to burying patients at SVDN was a cost-saving effort on the part of the Department of Indian Affairs and was based on an agreement between the SVDN (Oak River) band council and the federal government. Canada paid for the burials of Indigenous patients at federal Indian hospitals and provincially funded TB sanatoriums when families could not be reached or were unable to cover the cost of burial. At the time, burial in the Brandon Municipal Cemetery cost \$250, while records show that \$45 was the total amount Canada paid for burials at SVDN. MITHP researchers believe Canada stopped sending patients to be buried at SVDN early in 1958, when records show that SVDN requested an end to the arrangement due to the heavy labour required to dig graves in frozen ground in the depths of prairie winters.

Collaborative research by SVDN and the MITHP has identified roughly 50 burials to date in the area set aside for Brandon patients in the cemetery at Sioux Valley. We believe that the graves were initially marked with wooden crosses that included an engraved metal plate with the name of the deceased. Over time and due to a prairie fire that swept through the section of the cemetery that contains the Brandon Sanatorium burials, some of these grave markers are no longer standing or the name plates are missing.

The names of former patients who have been identified so far are listed below. We cannot know for sure if this is a complete list. We will update the list on the MITHP website <https://indigenoustbhistory.ca> as our research progresses. If you have information that you can provide to update this list, please email the MITHP Research Team at tbphotos@uwinnipeg.ca.

NOTE: THE VITAL STATISTICS REGISTRATION NUMBERS IN THIS TABLE, WHERE AVAILABLE, CAN BE USED TO LOCATE AND ORDER A COPY OF THE PATIENT'S DEATH REGISTRATION FROM MANITOBA VITAL STATISTICS <https://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca/QUERY.PHP>

BRANDON PATIENT BURIALS AT SIOUX VALLEY

| Name | Community | Birth | Death | Marker? | Vital Statistics Registration Number | Comments |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------|------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Harper, Ross | Oxford House | 1930 | 6 December 1950 or 2 December 1950 | Yes | Number 1950,006995 | Identified as United Church in Anglican Register. Anglican Register indicates died 2 December 1950, buried 6 December 1950. Vital statistics database shows died 6 December 1950, age 20. |
| Sinclair, Carrie | | 1921 | 19 September 1951 | Yes | Number 1951,005796 | Name not found in Anglican Register. Age at Death, according to Vital Statistics, 26 years. |
| Bois, Emily [aka Bors?] | "Sioux Reserve, Ontario?" [Sioux Lookout?] | 1933 | 28 November 1951 | Yes | Number 1951,006907 | Age 18 given in Anglican Register and Vital Statistics database. |
| MacKay, Thomas [aka Mae Kay, Tomas?] | | 1933 | 18 May 1951 | Yes | Number 1951,003535 | Name not found in Anglican Register. Age given as 18 in Vital Statistics database. |
| Ombash, Laura | | 1929 | 29 January 1952 | Yes | Number 1952,001368 | Both Anglican Register and Vital Statistics database indicate her age as 22 at the time of her death. |

| Name | Community | Birth | Death | Marker? | Vital Statistics Registration Number | Comments |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Mommucheak ["E3-647"/ aka Mommitoheak?] | Coral Harbour | 1921 | 12 March 1951 | Yes | Number 1951,002290 | Indian Affairs records indicate that he was Roman Catholic. Deputy Commissioner of NWT was informed of death and asked to tell family. |
| Tunkan Hota Win [aka Elsie Irene Royal | [Whitecap Dakota Nation] | 1928 | 25 February 1951 | Yes | Number 1951,001989 | Anglican register indicates spouse William Minnie, and last residence as "Beula Reserve" [possibly Birdtail?]. Anglican Register indicates United Church. |
| Kirkness, John [aka John Kierkness?] | Norway House | 1925 | 3 February 1951 | Yes | Number 1951,001455 | Should not be confused with another person by the same name buried in the Brandon IRS cemetery. Age 26 in both Vital Statistics database and Anglican Register. |
| Bee, Lazarus [aka Bee, Lazurus?] | [God's Lake?] | 1925 | 19 December 1950 | Yes | Number 1950,007006 | Possibly "H. Bee" in Anglican Register. |
| Traverse, Joe [aka Traverse, Joseph] | Jackhead, Fisher River Agency | 1921 | 16 November 1950 or 20 November 1950 | Yes | Number 1950,006394 | Vital Statistics indicates date of death as 16 November 1950, Anglican Register shows 20 November, 1950, buried 21 November 1950; both show age at death as 29 years. United Church. |
| Wood, Sarah | | 1938 | [19 October 1950?] | Yes | [Number 1950,005914] | Not in Anglican Register. Possibly Wood, Sarah Jane Marie in Vital Statistics database, age 12. |
| Okeemuwassee, Sadie [aka Okeemuwwassee, Sadie?/Okeenueasse, Sadie?] | | 1931/1937 [probably 1931] | 23 September 1950 | Yes | Number 1950,005493 | Vital Statistics database indicates age 19 at time of death. |

| Name | Community | Birth | Death | Marker? | Vital Statistics Registration Number | Comments |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Meekis, Rosie | | 1931/1937 | | Yes | | |
| Thomas, Charles | Crane River | 1930 | 10 July 1950 or 13 July 1950 | Yes | Number 1950,004359 | Anglican Register shows date of death as 13 July 1950. Vital Statistics database shows 10 July 1950 |
| Harper, Arthur | | 1932 | 13 June 1950 | Yes | Number 1950,003971 | Not found in Anglican Register. |
| Wesley, Irene | Norway House | 1923 | 11 May 1950 | Yes | Number 1950,003190 | Both Anglican Register and Vital Statistics database indicate age 27 at time of death |
| Beardy, John | Norway House | 1927 | 10 May 1950 | Yes | Number 1950,003189 | Anglican Register gives age as 27, Vital Statistics database indicates 23. |
| Fiddler, Roddy | | | 28 April 1950 | Yes | Number 1950,002941 | Not found in Anglican Register. |
| Dan, Abel | Allan Lake | 1924 | 7 April 1950 or 12 April 1950 | Yes | Number 1950,002519 | Anglican Register shows date of death as 12 April 1950, buried on the 13 th of April. Vital Statistics shows date of death as 7 April 1950. |
| Knott, Elizabeth | God's Island | 1932 | 2 April 1950 or 4 April 1950 | Yes | Number 1950,002518 | Anglican Register shows date of death 4 April 1950. Vital Statistics database shows 2 April 1950. |
| Farmer, Martha | Allan Lake | [age 63] | 8 April 1950 | | Number 1950,003072 | Anglican Register |
| Bee, Mary | God's Lake | [age 56/57?] | 11 December 1950 or 14 January 1951 | | Number 1951,001089 | Anglican Register indicates date of death 11 December 1950. Vital Statistics database shows 14 January 1951? |

| Name | Community | Birth | Death | Marker? | Vital Statistics Registration Number | Comments |
|---|--|---------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| "Eepikshoot" [Epiksaut] [E3-822] | Coral Harbour | [age 33] | [13 November 1950?] | | | |
| Nattaway, Lloyd George [Nallaway, Lloyd] | Oxford House | 1929/[age 22] | 10 April 1951 or 14 April 1951 | Yes [handwritten list] | Number 1951,002863 | Anglican Register shows date of death 14 April 1951. Vital Statistics database shows 10 April 1951. |
| [Catcheway, Michael?] | | | 23 August 1951 | | Number 1951,005105 | Vital Statistics record should be consulted to identify place of burial] |
| Chapman, Dora | Trout Lake Reserve, Sioux Lookout Agency, ON | [age 15] | 8 April 1952 | | | Anglican Register |
| [Elk, Evelyn died Ninette San, may not be with patients?] | | | | | | Anglican Register |
| Wood, Donald | Oxford House Reserve | [age 41] | 8 August 1952 | | | Anglican Register |
| Oombash, McKay | Osnaburgh, Sioux Lookout Agency | [age 14] | 29 December 1952 | | | Anglican Register |
| McKay, Martha | | [age 54] | [21 May 1953?] | | | St. Matthew's Brandon Register |



| Name | Community | Birth | Death | Marker? | Vital Statistics Registration Number | Comments |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------|--|--|
| Pais[hk] Suggashie | [North West Ontario?] | [age 39] | 21 May 1953?] | | | St. Matthew's Brandon Register |
| Solo[m]on, John | Duck Bay Reserve | [age 42] | 1 November 1954 | | | Anglican Register |
| Spence, Allan | [South Indian Lake? Nelson House?] | | 26 January 1955 | | | Government records. Mother "Mrs. Hartie" |
| Day, Doreen | Sandy Lake Reserve | | [1955?] | | | |
| Harpe[r], Emily | Island Lake | [age 15] | 2 April 1956 | | | Anglican Register |
| Harper, Jerry | [Island Lake Reserve/bo rn Brandon] | [age 1 ½ years] | 8 September 1956 | | | Anglican Register |
| "Cree Indian" ? | | | [Between 1956 and 1957] | | | Anglican Register |
| Rebecca Beardy | Cree Indian, Mile 374, Hudson Bay Railway | [age 6 month s] | 10 July 1957 | | | Anglican Register |

| Name | Community | Birth | Death | Marker? | Vital Statistics Registration Number | Comments |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------|--|---|
| Kooe[j]uk E7-157, Eskimo | Lake Harbour Res. NWT | [age 45] | 10 July 1957 | | | Anglican Register |
| Illaitutnar E1-[7]17 | Eskimo Point, NWT | [age 59] | 6 July 1957 | | | Anglican Register |
| Susie Eskimo [E4-540?] | Sugluk, Quebec | | 30 September 1957 | | | Anglican Register |
| Owen, Baby Mary | | [age 6 hours] | 6 December 1957 | | | Anglican Register |
| Eekootuk, Therese E2-53[2?] | Baker Lake, NWT | [age 34] | 6 December 1957 | | | Anglican Register |
| [Aupidlak, Genevieve?] | | [1934] | died 1957 age c 23 | | | [probably buried Sioux Valley] "Genevieve Aupidlak stayed at the Brandon Sanatorium from 1954 to 1957, when she died. She came from Salli and was born around 1934. First married to Pudlak, with whom she had a son, David Akolayok, she remarried with Leo Napayok and had a daughter by him, Yvone Tutak. She was baptised by Father Ataatajiuq (Father Marcel Rio), who named her Genevieve. Her father's name was Saimaut and her mother's name remains unknown. Her two brothers were named John and Jâlik, and |



| Name | Community | Birth | Death | Marker? | Vital Statistics Registration Number | Comments |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------|--------------|---------|--|---|
| | | | | | | her stepsister Sikuliak (Archives Deschâtelets, n.d.)” Laugrand, F. (2017). The comforting power of Christianity: Genevieve Aupidlak's correspondence with Father A. Thibert (OMI) in the Brandon Sanatorium (1954–1957). <i>Polar Record</i> , 53(6), 592-602. doi:10.1017/S0032247417000584 |
| Kooue[j]uk E7-157, Eskimo | Lake Harbour NWT | [age 45] | 10 July 1957 | | | Possibly Mother of Mr. Kotaikok E7-159 died 9 July 1957 [probably buried Sioux Valley]? |
| [Piova, Philippa?] | | | 8 March 1958 | | | Jack Anawak's mother [buried Sioux Valley? Or Brandon Municipal? Not found in Brandon Municipal records?] https://www.patrickboyer.ca/columns/148-inuit-tb-victims-let-s-find-them-in-muskoka.html Probably Brandon, maybe buried Oak River [Sioux Valley]? https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/closure-for-jack-anawak-1.5102798 |
| [Inuujaq?] | | | | | | Not known? “Aariak's grandmother, Inuujaq, was also taken to a facility in Brandon, Man., where she would die. |



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|------------------|-----------|-------|-----------------|---------|--|---|
| | | | | | | <p>March 7, 2019</p> <p>"Even if you were outside the community when the ship came in, the helicopter will come to get you," said Eva Aariak, who served as Nunavut's second premier. Her mother was twice taken away for treatment, including when Aariak was just 10. As the eldest child, Aariak had to take on many of her mother's roles. "It was a traumatic experience," she recalled. Aariak's grandmother, Inuujaq, was also taken to a facility in Brandon, Man., where she would die. The federal government never notified the family of the death and to this day, they do not know where Inuujaq is buried."</p> <p>https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/inuit-tb-tuberculosis-justin-trudeau-apology-1.5044475</p> <p>...to this day [2019], they do not know where Inuujaq is buried.</p> |
| Williams, Lloyd? | | | 13 July 1958 | | | Was a community member and may be buried with family? |