

IN THE MATTER OF WALTER WRIGHT

(1953), previously unreported

Ontario County Court, 30 October 1953

In the year 1920 the Band of Indians admitted Walter Wright to full membership. They now attempt to take that membership away from him on the grounds that they say he is not an Indian.

The mere fact they admitted him to membership is some evidence they consider him to be of Indian blood, and the onus is upon those who wish to take away his membership to prove he is of non-Indian blood.

Mr. McCrimmon says Walter Wright admitted he came from England and was a Banardo boy. As a rule, Banardo boys they [sic] have no opportunity of knowing who their parents are. They are taken away from their mother and if there is a father, the father, shortly after their birth.

Mr. McCrimmon admits Wright cannot tell who his mother was and he didn't know his father's name. It may be that Walter Wright is of non-Indian blood but in so far as evidence, I have no evidence whatsoever. I don't think Wright knows what nationality his parents were.

He was born in England, but he may have been of parents with Indian blood in England. The Band has not convinced me that Wright is of non-Indian blood. The mere fact they gave him Band membership they may have thought him to be of Indian blood.

I am going to allow the appeal and restore Walter Wright to full Band membership.

I don't think there is a question of costs.