

THANADELTHUR THE PEACEMAKER

ILLUSTRATED BY
ALEX DIOCHON

SPRING 1713,
NORTHERN MANITOBA

CREE WARRIORS ATTACK A
VILLAGE OF THEIR ENEMIES,
THE CHIPEWYAN*

THEY DRAG AWAY YOUNG THANADELTHUR
AND OTHERS TO BE SLAVES.

FALL 1713

THANADELTHUR AND HER FRIEND
ESCAPE AND HEAD FOR HOME.

*THE CHIPEWYAN, NOW OFTEN KNOWN AS DENESULINE, ARE A GROUP OF DENE PEOPLE







I AM AMAZED AT HER BRAVERY AND SPIRIT. SHE SCOLDS THE WARRIORS FOR BEING COWARDLY IN KILLING HER PEOPLE. THEY ARE IN AWE OF HER.



BUT EVEN THANADELTHUR COULDN'T OVERCOME COLD AND HUNGER



WE ARE TOO MANY TO FEED. WE MUST DIVIDE INTO SMALLER GROUPS.



THEY PARTED WAYS, WITH THANADELTHUR LEADING THOSE WHO STAYED WITH HER.



MY PEOPLE!



IF YOUR PEOPLE ARE RESPONSIBLE...



... BUT NO. THIS MUST END.



SOME ESCAPED. I CAN FOLLOW THEIR TRACKS.



CAMP HERE. I WILL FIND THE CHIPWEYAN VILLAGE AND MAKE SURE THEY DON'T TAKE REVENGE ON THE CREE.



WE CAN'T WAIT LONG.

TEN DAYS. IF I'M NOT BACK, RETURN TO THE FORT.



OVER THE WINTER THANADELTHUR SHOWED THE CHIPWEYAN (INCLUDING HER NEW HUSBAND) HOW TO PREPARE FURS FOR TRADING.



KNIGHT CAME TO TRUST HER FOR ADVICE ON NEARLY EVERYTHING, INCLUDING A NEW MISSION THAT WAS TO START OFF IN THE SPRING.



BUT THANADELTHUR FELL SICK, AND ON FEB. 5, 1717, SHE DIED.



SHE WAS ONE OF A VERY HIGH SPIRIT AND OF GREAT COURAGE. I AM SURE THE DEATH OF HER WAS A VERY CONSIDERABLE LOSS TO ALL.



TODAY SEES THE FINEST WEATHER WE HAVE HAD THIS SEASON, BUT THE SADDEST IT IS BY THE LOSS OF HER.



IN JAMES KNIGHT'S JOURNALS, SHE IS KNOWN AS THE SLAVE WOMAN, BUT DENE STORIES PROVIDE THANADELTHUR'S TRUE NAME. DESPITE HER AMAZING ACHIEVEMENTS, THERE IS NO MONUMENT TO THANADELTHUR. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NAMED HER A "PERSON OF NATIONAL HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE" AND PLANS TO PUT A PLAQUE IN CHURCHILL, MAN., NOT FAR FROM YORK FACTORY.

