

**NAME: FIRTH, John**

**PARISH:** Stromness, ORKNEY **ENTERED SERVICE:** 3 June 1871  
(A.32/28 fo. 170)

**DATES:** b. 1855  
d. 4 May 1939

Appointments & Service

Outfit Year*:	Position:	Post:	District:	HBCA Reference:
*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May				
1871-1872	Labourer	General Charges	York	(B.157/d/27; B.200/b/39 v.1 fo. 37;
1872-1878	Labourer	Peel River	Mackenzie River	B.235/g/5 fo. 52d; B.235/k/1 fo.
1878-1879	Labourer	LaPierre's House	Mackenzie River	67d; D.38/4 fo. 41; B.235/g/9 fo.
1879-1880	Interpreter	LaPierre's House	Mackenzie River	4d; B.200/b/39 v.1, fos. 394, 434,
1880-1884	Postmaster	LaPierre's House	Mackenzie River	468, 717; B.173/d/11 fo. 6;
1884-1885	Postmaster	Rampart House	Mackenzie River	D.24/43; D.33/19 fo. 4)
1885-1893	Clerk	Rampart House	Mackenzie River	
1893-1919	Clerk	Peel River and Fort McPherson	Mackenzie River	
1919	Retired on pension			



Wife: Catherine Stewart, daughter of Alexander Stewart and a Loucheux Indian woman ('Civilisation too damned monotonous' in *Islander* 1990 p. 26; copy on Search File)

Children: William  
In 1884 he had a wife and four children (B.200/b/39 v.1, fos. 597-598)  
Reported to have had 12 children

**Photographs** At Fort McPherson, wearing post manager's cap (n.d., but probably post-1900) (HBCA Photo. Coll. 1987/363-E-700-F/55)  
With his wife, ca. 1925 (HBCA Photo. Coll. 1987/363-E-700-F/56)

**Works of Art** Portrait by Kathleen Shackleton, Jan. 1938 (P-257)  
1966 Calendar by Lorne Bouchard showing Stefansson's departure from Fort McPherson, 1906, with Firth on the riverbank (P-439)

**Bibliography:**

"John Firth of Fort McPherson," *The Beaver*, Dec. 1939, p. 48  
C.D. LaNauze, "Mackenzie Memories," *The Beaver* Sept. 1948, p. 24  
"Street Names in the town of Inuvik, NWT," *Canoma*, July 1989 Vol. 15 No. 1 p. 18  
Ethel G. Stewart, *Fort McPherson and the Peel River Area*, Kingston: Unpublished M.A. Thesis for Queen's University, 1955.

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