

## **Médéric Zéphirin McDougall, C.M.**

“Medric” McDougall was a founder of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan and received the Order of Canada in 1986. He was born on December 29, 1903 at St. Louis, Saskatchewan the son of Alexandre Peter McDougall and Virginie Lépine. On February 2, 1933, Medric married Anne Marie C. Lepine, the daughter of Patrice Tobie Lepine and Lucie Nolin (daughter of Charles Nolin). Médéric was the grandson of Alexandre McDougall and Maxime Lepine, two men who were active in the 1885 Metis Resistance at Batoche.

Médéric was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada on December 23, 1985 and his investiture took place on April 9, 1986. The citation reads:

A former employee of the municipality of St-Louis, Saskatchewan, school trustee and member of the village council, he has worked for the advancement of his people. A founding member and delegate of the Métis Association and president of the local chapter of the Association culturelle franco-canadienne, he has been faithful all his life to his people and the French language. Although retired, he is actively involved in improving conditions for senior citizens and in preparations for the centennial celebrations of Louis Riel's Liberation Movement

Medric was involved with the Metis Society of Saskatchewan from its earliest days. In the 1930s he worked to organize the Metis communities of St. Louis, Batoche and St. Laurent. He was a founding member and also served on the board of the St. Louis Credit Union for 25 years. He was a supporter of the Metis separation from the former Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS). He was also a supporter of the work of Howard Adams, his nephew.

Medric's paternal grandfather, Alexandre McDougall (1841-1924) was the son of Duncan McDougall and Marguerite McDonald. Alexandre married Maria Irwin at St. Boniface in 1862. The family moved to St. Louis Saskatchewan in 1882. He was a member of Captain Baptiste Boucher's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. Alexandre appears on Philippe Garnot's list of Resistance participants as #174. His son, Alexandre married Maxime Lépine's daughter Virginie.

Medric's maternal grandfather Maxime Lépine (1836-1897) was born in St. Boniface, the son of Jean-Baptiste Bérard *dit* Lépine<sup>1</sup> and Julia Henry. Maxime married Josephte Lavallée, also of St. Boniface, in 1857. They had six children who lived to adulthood. He lived at St. François-Xavier in the 1870s ran a freighting company that used Red River carts to transport goods as far west as Carlton and Isle-à-la Crosse and south to Pembina and St. Paul.

Maxime was a brother-in-law by marriage and a close friend of Louis Riel. Both Maxime and his brother Ambroise-Didyme were members of Riel's first provisional government

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<sup>1</sup> Baptiste Lepine held HBC lots 272 and 785 at Red River.

in 1869. After Manitoba entered Confederation in 1870, Maxime managed to escape reprisals from the Ontario Orangemen (unlike Goulet and his brother). He was a founding member of the Metis organization Union Saint-Alexander in 1871.

Maxime was elected to the Manitoba Legislature on December 23, 1874 as MLA from St. François-Xavier and served until 1878. Disillusioned by the influx of settlers and erosion of Metis land rights, he left the province in 1882, and moved to St. Louis de Langevin, on the South Saskatchewan (Lot 5, T45-28-2). There he operated a ferry from his river lot and farmed. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company. He was a member of Riel's Council (Exovedate) at Batoche during the 1885 Resistance. Along with his two sons, he fought at Tourond's Coulee in April 1885 and at Batoche in May.

*References:*

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