

Heroine of the 1885 Resistance: Madeleine Wilkie Dumont. (1840-1886).
Spouse, Gabriel Dumont, (1837-1906).

Madeleine was the daughter of Jean Baptiste Wilkie and Isabella Azure, born in 1840. Her father was known as Chief of the Metis at St. Joseph, North Dakota. Their family was part of the Pembina Chippewa Indian group. They appear under Band # 179 on the Annuity Roll for Little Shell's Band in 1866 and as Band # 144 on the 1867 Annuity Roll for Way-ke-ge-ke-zhick's Band. Her father, Jean Baptiste Wilkie, took Half-Breed Scrip (# 172) under the Red Lake and Pembina's Bands of Chippewa Treaty of April 12, 1864.

Madeleine married Gabriel Dumont in 1858 at St. Joseph (North Dakota). Soon after, they moved to the St. Laurent area of Saskatchewan. Madeleine gained a reputation for being hospitable and compassionate to those less fortunate than herself. There is evidence that she and her husband had a very close relationship and he greatly respected her. The couple had no children but adopted a daughter, Veronique Dumont who was an orphaned niece and a boy, Alexandre Fayant.

As well as coping with everyday duties, Madeleine frequently accompanied Gabriel on long trips by snowshoe, Red River cart and horseback. Indeed on several occasions she traveled alone from Batoche to Winnipeg to sell the furs that Gabriel had acquired. The ability to speak English gave her an advantage Gabriel did not have, although he spoke French and five Native languages. Madeleine also acted as a teacher for the children of Batoche. During the 1885 Resistance she helped remove the injured from the battlefield, nursed the wounded and distributed the meager rations and supplies.

Gabriel saw to Madeleine's safety before crossing the border into the United States after the Battle of Batoche. She soon joined him because she could not tolerate the resultant situation in the Batoche area. They lived in the Judith Basin at Lewistown with her sister Judith and husband Pierre Berger. The Berger's lived beside another Montana Metis leader, Ben Klyne Her health suffered severely in Montana. Madeleine died in October 1885 at Lewistown, Montana, from consumption and complications arising from a fall from a buggy.



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