

## Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia

The Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia was formed by Louis Riel's Provisional Government and arose out of the Convention of Forty. The Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia functioned between March 9, 1870 and June 24, 1870.

A committee of the Convention of Forty made a report on February 10, 1870 recommending that they form an elected council of 24 members, with an executive consisting of a President, two Secretaries, one French and one English, and a Treasurer.<sup>1</sup> This date marks the formal dissolution of the National Committee of Metis and the installation of the Provisional Government. The first session of the first parliament was on March 9th of 1870. Alexander Begg lists the following councilors in attendance:

French—W.B. O'Donoghue, John Bruce, Ambroise Lépine, Louis Schmidt, A. Beauchemin, Baptiste Tourond, Baptiste Beauchemin, Pierre Parenteau, Louis Lacerte.

English—A.G.B. Bannatyne, Wm. Fraser, Thos. Bunn, W. Garrioch, Geo. Gunn, John Lazarus Norquay, E. Hays, A.H. Scott, H.F. O'Lone, Wm. Tait.<sup>2</sup>

On March 23, 1870 Mr. W. Coldwell was appointed clerk of the Assembly.<sup>3</sup> On the same date it was noted that Thomas Sinclair, councilor of St. Andrews had died. He had filled the offices of Post-master, Justice of the Peace and President of the Petty Court of the district. There was a motion to appoint Mr. Thomas Sinclair Jr. in his place. The motion was withdrawn by Bannatyne on the ground that making of such appointments pertained wholly to the Executive.

On March 24, 1870, Mr. Fraser, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Hay, moved—That a committee composed of the following members of the House—Hon Messrs. Lepine, Bruce, Dauphinais, Bannatyne, Bunn and Tait be appointed to administer the oath of office to the Hon. Louis Riel, President of the Provisional Government of Assiniboia. The name of the Hon. Mr. Andre Beauchemin was substituted for that of the Hon. Mr. Lepine, who was absent. The motion was put and carried.

After Riel took the oath the clerk and members of the Assembly were sworn in:—  
Hon. Messrs. Bannatyne, Tait, Hay, Garrioch, Bunn, Gunn, Fraser, Sinclair, O'Donoghue, Norquay, Tourond, Lacerte, Harrison, Dauphinais, Poitras, Bruce, Baptiste Beauchemin, Parenteau, Schmidt, O'Lone, Page, and André Beauchemin.<sup>4</sup> On March 25, 1870, the Hon. Messrs. Bird and Delorme were sworn in.

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<sup>1</sup> Louis Riel – President, Thomas Bunn and Louis Schmidt – Secretaries, W.B. O'Donoghue – Treasurer.

<sup>2</sup> Alexander Begg, *Red River Journals and Other Papers Relative to the Red River Resistance of 1869-1870*. Toronto: Champlain Society, 1956: 333

<sup>3</sup> William Coldwell (1834-1907), born in London, England, a journalist who came to Canada in 1854 and founded the *Nor'Wester* at Red River in 1859. Later he published the *Manitoban*.

<sup>4</sup> *New Nation*, April 8, 1870, pg. 1.

On May 9, 1870, the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia re-established civil law. In recognition of this the guard at Upper Fort Garry was reduced to fifty or so men. On June 23, 1870, the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia met to receive the report of their delegates to Ottawa. On June 24, 1870, the Assembly, by motion of Louis Schmidt, seconded by Thomas Bunn, unanimously accepted Ritchot's report and approved entry into confederation via acceptance of the terms of the *Manitoba Act*.<sup>5</sup>

### **Legislative Council after the addition of two Winnipeg members:<sup>6</sup>**

#### **Representing Nominally French Parishes:**

André Beauchemin  
Jean-Baptiste Beauchemin  
John Bruce  
François Dauphinais  
Pierre Delorme  
Ambroise-Didyme Lepine  
W.B. O'Donoghue  
François-Xavier Page  
Pierre Parenteau  
Pierre Poitras  
Auguste Harrison  
Louis Schmidt  
Baptiste Tourond  
Louis Lacerte

#### **Representing Nominally English Parishes:**

A.G.B. Bannatyne  
Dr. C.J. Bird  
Thomas Bunn  
William Fraser  
William Garrioch Jr.  
George Gunn  
E.H.G.G. Hay  
James McKay  
John Lazarus Norquay Sr.  
Hugh F. Olone  
Alfred H. Scott  
John Sinclair  
Thomas Sinclair Jr.  
William Auld Tait

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<sup>5</sup> Alexander Begg, *op. cit.* pp. 139-140.

<sup>6</sup> Norma Hall, "A History of the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia / le Conseil du Gouvernement Provisoire." Winnipeg: Government of Manitoba 2010: 9.

21 of the 28 members were Metis.

**A.G.B. Bannatyne (1829-1889)**

Born in the Orkney Islands, he came to Red River in 1849 and worked for the HBCo. He married Annie McDermott, a Métisse. In 1851 he left the HBC and set up his own trading and dry goods operation. In 1868 he went into partnership with Alexander Begg. He was appointed a Councillor of Assiniboia in 1868 and was defeated in his attempt to be a delegate to the Convention of Forty in 1870. He did become a member of the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia and was appointed postmaster for Winnipeg in 1871. He was elected as MP for Provencher riding in 1875.

**André Millet *dit* Beauchemin (1824-1902)**

A Metis politician, he served as the St. Vital delegate on Riel's Red River Council of November 1869. Later he was a delegate to the Convention of Forty and a councillor in the provisional government. He was elected to the first Manitoba legislature in 1870 by acclamation to represent the riding of St. Vital. André was born on November 6, 1824 at Red River, the son of André Millet *dit* Beauchemin and Madeleine Ducharme. He married Geneviève Delorme, the daughter of Joseph Esnault *dit* Delorme and Brigitte Villebrun.



Reference:

Bowfield, Hartwell. The James Wickes Taylor Correspondence 1859-1870. Vol. III,  
Manitoba Record Society Publications, Altona: D. W. Friesen & Sons Ltd., 1968.5

**Jean Baptiste Millet *dit* Beauchemin. (1838-1900)**

Jean was the son of Benjamin Beauchemin and Marie Parenteau. In 1858 he was married to Margeurite McMillan (b. January 12, 1840). They had ten children. He represented St. Charles at the Convention of Forty in 1870 and served on Riel's second provisional government. Pierre Parenteau Sr. noted below was his uncle as was André Beauchemin noted above. Both of these men were members of Louis Riel's October 1869 Metis National Committee.

**Dr. Curtis James Bird (1838-1876)**

Bird was a member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. In 1873 he was tarred for his opposition to a bill for the incorporation of the town of Winnipeg. Bird, a physician, trained in England, was the son of Chief Factor James Curtis Bird Sr. and Mary Lowman. Curtis James was not Metis although all his step-siblings from James Curtis Bird's first marriage were. Thus, Curtis was the stepbrother of the famous Metis plainsman Jemmy Jock Bird.

Curtis James married the daughter of Donald Ross in 1866. She was the widow of Charles McDermot. Bird was educated at St. John's College in Winnipeg before studying medicine at Guy's hospital in London. Upon his return to Red River he was appointed coroner, and succeeded Dr. Bunn in 1861. He became a member of the Council of Assiniboia in 1868, participated in the Convention of Forty 1870 and represented St. Paul's in the first legislative assembly of Manitoba. Dr. Bird owned a pharmacy and this drugstore was reputed to have had the first soda fountain in Western Canada.



**John Bruce. (1837-1893)**

John Bruce, a Metis carpenter and sometime legal practitioner, was president of the Provisional Government of Red River in 1869. He was born in 1837, at Ile à la Crosse, the son of Pierre Bruce and Marguerite Desrosiers. He married Angelique Gaudry (Vaudry, Beaudry) the daughter of Pierre Gaudry and Marie-Anne Hughes. The family were resident at St. Norbert. His brother was La Loche Boat Brigade leader Jean Baptiste Bruce (1809-1890) born on September 15, 1809 at Ile-à-la-Crosse.

John has been described as tall and dark-featured with a sober looking face. He often worked as a legal advocate for the Francophone Metis. He was reportedly fluent in English, French and a number of Indian languages. On October 1869, Bruce was elected President of the Metis National Committee, the first move to resist the annexation by Canada. He also served as the Commissioner of Public Works in Riel's Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia. He was appointed a judge and magistrate by Archibald the first Lieutenant Governor. After appearing as a witness against Ambroise Lépine in his trial for the murder of Thomas Scott, Bruce and his family moved to Leroy, in what is now North Dakota.

*Reference*

Ronaghan, N.E. Allen. "John Bruce." *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XII (1891-1900). Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1990: 131-133.

**Thomas Bunn (1830-1875)**

Thomas Bunn was the first son of Dr. John Bunn and Catherine Thomas, both Metis. He was raised in the parish of St. Paul (Middlechurch) and educated at the Red River Academy. He married Isabella Clouston in 1854 and Rachel Harriot in 1859.

In 1868, he was appointed to the Council of Assiniboia having previously served as clerk of the Council and the Quarterly Court of Assiniboia from 1865-1869. Bunn was made a delegate to the Council from St. Clements in 1869. He was a supporter of Riel and chaired the famous open-air meetings of January 1870 when Donald A. Smith spoke to the Red River population. Bunn then served on the committee arranging the elections to the Convention of Forty and he himself became one of the delegates to the Convention representing St. Clements. He served as Secretary of State in the Provisional Government. In Manitoba's first election of December 1870, Bunn was elected as MPP from St. Clements. Bunn was called to the bar in 1871 and was clerk for the first General Quarterly Court in May of 1871.



**Pierre Delorme, M.L.A., M.P. (1832-1912)**

Pierre was born October 1, 1832 in St. Boniface, the son of Joseph Fafard Delorme and Josephite Bellisle. From 1852-56, he worked for the HBC at Swan River as a middleman. In September 1854, he married Adélaïde Millet *dit* Beauchemin and in 1857 they bought lot 21 at Pointe-Coupée (St. Adolphe) where they built a log-framed two-story house. They raised five sons and two daughters. Pierre farmed, traded and ran a boarding house for Pembina Trail travelers and later operated a cart brigade to northern Saskatchewan.

During the late 1860s, Louis Riel and the other Metis political leaders started meeting at Delorme's home to strategize on their response to the planned transfer of Rupert's Land to Canada. Delorme took an active part in the Provisional Government and in 1870 was elected to the Convention of Forty as the member from Pointe-Coupée. In the first provincial election of December 1870 he was elected as MLA for St. Norbert. He was elected as a federal MP in 1871, for Provencher riding, defeated in the next election (1874) and re-elected in December of 1878 by acclamation. As a Captain of the Metis he captured Major Boulton and others when they attempted to take Upper Fort Garry on behalf of the Canadian Party. In 1871 he was elected a Captain of the Metis from Pointe-Coupée to defend Manitoba against Fenian invasion from the United States.

He contested the 1870 election, running as a Conservative and won the seat of St. Norbert South, which he held until defeated in 1874. In 1871 he ran federally in the Provencher riding and became one of Manitoba's first members of the House of Commons. From 1873 to 1875 he served on the Council of the North-West Territories. He nominated Riel for the seat in 1872, but it was withdrawn so he could nominate George-Étienne Cartier, who had been defeated in his Montreal riding. Cartier was elected by acclamation. After Cartier's death in 1883, Delorme was again active in attempts to nominate Riel and have him elected for Provencher.



In 1878, Premier Norquay named Delorme Minister of Agriculture and President of the Executive Council. In the provincial election of that year, he was elected by acclamation for the riding of St. Norbert. Upon retiring from politics, he returned to St.

Adolphe as a farmer and businessman. He argued for Riel's amnesty and was deeply involved with the Metis lands issue. (Contributed by Fred Shore.)

*Reference*

Shore, Fred. "Pierre Delorme." *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XIV (1911-1920). Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1998: 280-281.

**François Dauphinais (b. 1815)**

François was born on January 1, 1815, the son of Michel Genthon dit Dauphinais (b. c. 1772) and Victoire Ouelette, daughter of Joseph Ouelette and Angelique (Nakota).<sup>7</sup> François married Francoise Paul, the daughter of Paul Paul and Marguerite Lavallee. They were enumerated in the 1850 Pembina Census as Family # 106. Francois is listed as a 36 year-old hunter. They had five children at that time. In total, the couple had eleven children:

- Alexis, born November 6, 1840 in St. Boniface, married Philomene Carriere.
- Marie, born c.1842, married Charles Morin.
- Francois, born July 1, 1843.
- Casimir (Lescenin), born 1846, married Marie Breland.
- Pierre, born 1848, married Josephthe Cyr.
- William, born January 18, 1851, married Appoline Poitras.
- Marie Flavie, born February 14, 1854 at St. Francois Xavier, married Joshue Breland.
- Daniel, born April 27, 1856 at St. Francois Xavier, died August 23, 1856.
- Patrice, born July 27, 1858 at St. Francois Xavier, married Elizabeth Deslauriers, daughter of Norbert Deslauriers dit Legault and Marie Frobisher, in 1881.
- Clemence, born September 20, 1860 at St. Francois Xavier, married Noel Gervais.
- Marguerite, born August 27, 1863 at St. Francois Xavier, married Elzear Poitras.



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<sup>7</sup> Enumerated in the 1850 Pembina Census as Family #107.

François' second marriage, in 1882, was to Marguerite Morin dit Perreault born March 9, 1843, the daughter of Louis Morin and Marguerite Malaterre<sup>8</sup>.

Francois served as the St. François Xavier delegate to Riel's 1869 Convention of 24 (November 16, 1869) and then became vice-president of the Provisional Government, 8 January 1870. He was later appointed to Manitoba's Legislative Council (Upper House) in 1871 to 1876. During the post 1870 "Reign of Terror" Dauphinais, Peter Poitras and Pierre Pagée were arrested and jailed by Wolseley's troops. Francois was then a member of the Union St. Alexandre, a group was formed as a successor to the Metis National Committee and named in honour of Monseigneur Alexandre Taché. The group was formed by Riel, Ambroise Lépine and Louis Schmidt late in 1871.<sup>9</sup>

Francois died in February 1899 at St. John, Turtle Mountain, North Dakota.

### **William Garrioch (b. 1828)**

William Garrioch Jr. was born 4 July 1828 to William Garrioch<sup>10</sup> (of Orkney), and Nancy Cook (Métis), a daughter of William Hemmings Cook (London, England) and Kahnawpawmakan (Cree). In about 1851, William Garrioch Jr. married Mary Brown, the daughter of Henry Brown (of Orkney) and his wife Elizabeth/Isabella Slater (Metis).<sup>11</sup> Mary was born on October 01, 1833 at St Paul Parish, Red River Settlement. It appears that initially William Garrioch Jr. and wife Mary held an allotment of land near St. Peter's parish that had been granted by Chief Peguis. As early as 1853, however, they had joined a group of settlers who moved further to the west to establish a new church and parish at St. Mary's la Prairie. In 1862 Garrioch Jr. sold the St. Peter's property and concentrated on growing grain at la Prairie, where his brother, John Garrioch, also farmed and taught school. The new parish was formalized on 9 April 1866, and William Garrioch Jr. was named a member of the vestry of St. Mary's.

On March 1, 1870 William Garrioch Jr. was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia as representative of the parish of St. Mary's Laprairie.

Approximately a year after the creation of Manitoba, William Garrioch Jr. sold property identified as lot of land No. 1352, of six-chains frontage, on the north side of the Assiniboine River, between Headingly Church and the house of John Taylor' to John H. McTavish, in conformance with the 'custom of the country' prior to the transfer.

By 1872, he was Justice of the Peace 'in and for the County of Marquette.' He was also petitioning various levels of government, along with other 'original settlers,' in protest against surveyors, who were encroaching well within the limits of their properties, to mark land as for sale under the homestead clause of the Dominion Lands Act 'as if the said lands had never previously been occupied.' He was subsequently interviewed regarding the settlers' descriptions of the extent of their properties, but continued to have difficulties. After he signed a reward offer for information on the person responsible for

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<sup>8</sup> Marguerite was the sister of Marie Eulalie Malaterre who was the mother of Marguerite Monet dit Belhumeut, the wife of Louis Riel.

<sup>9</sup> R. Huel and George F. Stanley (Eds.), *The Collected Writings of Louis Riel* vol. 1, 1861-1875. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 1985: 159-160.

<sup>10</sup> William Sr. retired from the HBC in 1820 and became the first schoolteacher at Middlechurch parish.

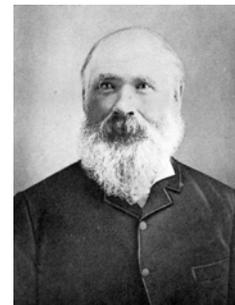
<sup>11</sup> Isabella Slater was born circa 1808 in Rupert's Land. She married William on February 06, 1829 in St John's Parish, High Bluff. She was the daughter of James Slater and Mary (Indian).

an attack on livestock, and resigned as justice of the peace, he and his wife Mary relocated, with their nine children, to Kinesota Settlement on Lake Manitoba – the site of a former Hudson’s Bay Company trading post, and an area projected to become a ‘magnificent mixed-farming district.’

Six years later, his sale of property near St. Peter’s a decade before was called into question. He had passed on two deeds to the purchaser, William Elliot — one from himself and one from Chief Peguis. When Elliott tried to re-sell the land, however, he was told ‘he had derived no title from Garrioch, he (Garrioch) only holding through Peguis, who had no right to convey the lands, they being vested in the Crown. Whatever the resolution to his land title problems in Red River, his move to Kinesota appears to have been his last. He was recorded on the 1906 Manitoba census as a widower, 77 years old, and living in Dauphin district 2, sub-district 11 west, township 22, at lot 8, Kinesota with three of his unmarried sons – aged 26 to 32. Together they had had 8 horses, 20 milk cows, and 85 head of beef cattle.

**William Fraser (1832-1909)**

Fraser served on the Council of Assiniboia from 1868 to 1870 then on the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia. He was born in the Red River Settlement on 17 June 1832, the son of James and Anne Bannerman. He married Annie MacBeath the daughter of John MacBeth and Ellen Matheson. He sold his property in 1882, and Rose Cottage was eventually moved to the Lower Fort Garry historical site in 1969. He then moved to the east side of the river to what became known as Fraser’s Grove. He was elected as reeve of Kildonan 12 times. His brother John Fraser (1822-1920) was an English-speaking delegate from Kildonan to the 1870 Convention of Forty. Fraser ran in the provincial election of December 23, 1874 and tied with John Sutherland. The seat was declared vacant and Sutherland won the run-off By-Election of April 1875. Fraser lived on River Lot 16 in Kildonan.



**George Gunn. (1833-1901)**

George Gunn was born on December 11, 1833, the son of Donald Gunn (Scotland) and Margaret Swain (Metis). His father had been a Hudson’s Bay Company Assistant Trader to 1822. His father was also a local magistrate and published articles on Red River history.

It is reported that George sold off his property at Poplar Point and relocated to the Swift Current district after 1871. Once there, he married Eliza Winchild (Otterskin, Métis), originally of the Fort Qu’Appelle District, in 1872. The couple had four children: Donald Edward, born 1877; Eliza Margaret, born 1879, died in 1883, Catherine Janet, born 1882 and died in 1910, and William James, born in 1890 at Maple Creek.

George’s parents farmed at St. Andrews parish on the Red River, George however settled and farmed at St. Ann’s parish, located at Poplar Point along the Assiniboine. George worked for a few years for the HBC, then broke his contract as a result of an argument with Chief Factor John Rowand at Edmonton. He then operated his own fur trade post at Red Deer Forks along with Colin McKay. He died at Swift Current in 1901.

In 1869, both George Gunn and his father were among the English Members who attended the Convention of Twenty-four held in the Court House, adjoining Fort Garry, on 16 November. George participated as elected representative for St. Ann's, and Donald for St. Andrew's. George was a delegate, from Ste. Anne's to Riel's 1869 Council of 24, and then served on the February 28, Convention of Forty and the 1870 Provisional Government. After the creation of Manitoba, Gunn ran as candidate for Poplar Point in the first general election for the province on 27 Dec. 1870. He lost however, receiving 14 votes, while runner-up M. Cook had 18, and the winner, D. Spence, had 26. subsequently, Lieutenant Governor Archibald appointed him as one of the Justices of the Peace for the County Marquette in 1871. The same year he was elected school trustee for Poplar Point.

George was a Red River Resistance claimant but he was awarded nothing in compensation. George was also appointed to the Legislative Council of Manitoba in 1871 and sat until it was abolished.

### **Thomas Auguste Harrison. (1837-1907)**

Auguste Harrison, a Metis, was born on March 9, 1836 at St. Boniface. He was the son of Thomas Harrison, born 1814 (Metis) and Pauline Lagimodière (French Canadian), the daughter of Jean Baptiste Lagimodiere and Marie Anne Gaboury. He was thus a cousin of Louis Riel. He married Lucie Champagne the daughter of Emmanuel Champagne dit Beaugrand and Marguerite Larocque on February 3, 1863 at St. Boniface. They had nine children by 1884. Sometime before 1880 he remarried to Madeleine Montagnais and was living at Duck Lake near his father-in-law. His sister Marie Anne was married to Charles Nolin.

Norma Hall reports that "Auguste was sometimes confused with his father and thus identified as Thomas Auguste Harrison. It seems probable that it was Auguste's father who attended the Convention of Forty [for Oak Point] in 1870 and angered Louis Riel (who referred to him as 'Tom').<sup>12</sup> It was Auguste however, who subsequently served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia that was formed as a result of the Convention."<sup>13</sup>

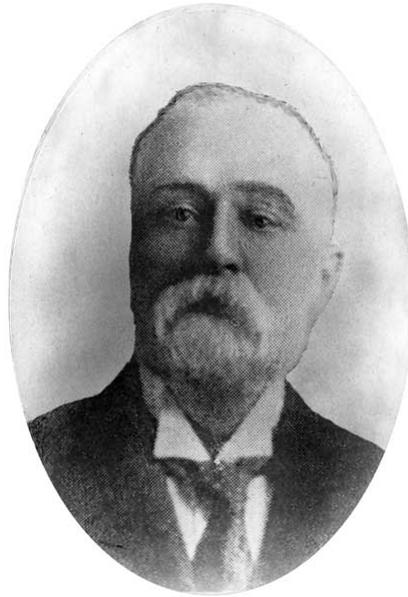
### **Edward Henry George G. Hay. (1832-1918)**

Hay was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia from St. Andrews. He also served on the Executive Council. He was a machinist who worked on constructing the Red River steamboat the International at Georgetown in 1861. In 1863 he moved to Fort Garry and built his own mill in St. Andrew's, where he continued operations until 1881. He was a member of the Manitoba Legislature for St. Andrew's South (Liberal) in the first assembly of 1870. He was defeated in 1874. Hay was re-elected in 1879 as member for St. Clement's. He moved to Portage la Prairie, erecting a foundry, which he operated until 1893. In 1889 he was made Police Magistrate.

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<sup>12</sup> When Thomas voted on 5 February against Louis Riel's motion that the HBC left out of the transfer arrangements of the territory, which should be negotiated between Canada and the people of Red River. Riel responded by calling Harrison and delegates Nolin and Klyne "traitors."

<sup>13</sup> Norma Hall: <http://hallnjean.wordpress.com/sailors-worlds/the-red-river-resistance-and-the-creation-of-manitoba/legislative-assembly-of-assiniboia/auguste-harrison-ste-anne/>



**Louis Lacerte (La Serte).** (b. 1821)

Louis was a Red River Metis, the son of Louis Lacerte Sr. and Marie Martin. He married to Josephte Vandal (b. 1825) and they had 18 children. In 1843, the family was enumerated at St. Boniface and on June 17, 1845 at Norway House. By 1850, the family was enumerated at Pembina, Louis Lasert (sic) was shown as a blacksmith. They then moved with the rest of the Metis to St. Joseph to avoid the annual flooding at Pembina. The family then settled at Pointe Coupée now known as St. Adolphe, Manitoba. He then married Charlotte Lesperance at St. Francois Xavier in 1879. He was a St. Vital delegate to the council of 1869 and represented Pointe Coupée at the 1870 Convention of Forty.

**Ambroise-Didyme Lépine.** (1840-1923)

This Metis leader was the son of Jean-Baptiste Bérard *dit* Lépine and Julia Henry, a Saskatchewan Metis who was the daughter of the famous Alexander Henry and his Saulteaux wife. He was the brother of Jean-Baptiste Jr. and Maxime Lépine. Ambroise was born in St. Boniface in 1840. He was married to Cecile Marion, the daughter of Metis leader Narcisse Marion. He took his education at St. Boniface College. Lépine represented St. Boniface at the 1870 Convention of Forty.



Lépine was Louis Riel's Adjutant General during the Red River Resistance of 1869-70. His military leadership amongst the Metis was attributed to his cool demeanor and prodigious physical strength. He served in the provisional government as military commander and presided at the war council, which condemned Thomas Scott, though he was opposed to the execution.

In St. Vital, he was arrested for the murder of Scott.

During October of 1875, he was tried and found guilty. He was sentenced to be hung but Lord Dufferin, Governor General of Canada, commuted his sentence to two years in jail and his civil rights were revoked indefinitely.

A long awaited amnesty was offered to both Riel and Lépine on condition that they both leave the country for five years. Lépine decided to serve out his sentence, contrary to Riel. On February 11, 1875, the Prime Minister moved that:

...full amnesty should be granted to all persons concerned in the North-West troubles for all acts committed by them during the said troubles, saving only L. Riel, A. D. Lépine, and W.B. O' Donoghue, that in the opinion of this house it would be proper...that a like amnesty should be granted to L. Riel and A.D. Lépine conditional on five years banishment from Her Majesty's Dominions.

Ambroise Lépine was permitted to settle near Batoche, Saskatchewan and then near Forget. It was only a few years before his death in 1923 that his civil rights were restored. (Contributed by Lorraine Freeman.)

### **James McKay, M.L.A. (1825-1879)**

James McKay, born at Fort Edmonton, was the son of James McKay Sr.<sup>14</sup> (an itinerant Scottish fur trader) and Marguerite Gladu<sup>15</sup>, a Métisse daughter of Charles Gladu and Marguerite Ross. He spent most of his life in what is now Manitoba. McKay was an expert guide, woodsman and hunter.

James McKay was educated at Red River and began working for the Hudson's Bay Company in 1853 and had postings in the Swan River district, Qu'Appelle Lakes, Fort Ellice, Fort Pelly and the Shayenne River region. McKay began work with the HBC in 1853. It is a tribute to his skills that many distinguished visitors sought him out as a guide. He often met the HBC governor, George Simpson in Crow Wing, Minnesota and escorted him to Fort Garry. In 1857, while at Fort Ellice, he was engaged to guide the John Palliser party from Fort Ellice (now St. Lazare, Manitoba) through the Saskatchewan plains to its winter quarters at Fort Carlton, Saskatchewan.

He married Margaret Rowand in June of 1859 and as a result of his wife's inheritance, the family established itself at Deer Lodge and McKay had an active business career at Red River.

He built the famous Deer Lodge Mansion as his home on the banks of the Assiniboine River. He owned thousands of acres of land and at one time had a stable of horses valued at more than \$100,000.

A huge man of 340 pounds, McKay was impressive in every way. His strength was legendary. Once while riding on the plains he was attacked by a prairie grizzly bear, a species, which preyed on the buffalo herds and is now extinct. He responded by lassoing the bear and subduing it. On another occasion, he came across a couple in a horse drawn cart stuck in the mud. McKay unhitched the horse, put himself between the shafts and pulled the vehicle out. As a member of the Palliser expedition, he is said to have ridden a buffalo. He was so physically agile that he was able to leap over the back of his horse. He

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<sup>14</sup> James McKay Sr, Was born January 13, 1797 in Scotland, he died in 1887 at Prince Albert and is buried on the Mistawasis Reserve.

<sup>15</sup> Marguerite was born in 1809 at Cumberland House

was also considered a champion dancer of the Red River Jig, a dance requiring both grace and agility. The Earl of Southesk, supplies a full description of James McKay as he appeared on their trip from Crow Wing (Minnesota Territory) to Upper Fort Garry:

[He was] immensely broad-chested and muscular, though not tall, he weighed eighteen stone; yet in spite of his stoutness he was exceedingly hardy and active, and a wonderful horseman. His face—somewhat Assyrian in type—is very handsome: short delicate aquiline nose; piercing dark grey eyes; long dark-brown hair, beard, moustaches; white small, regular teeth; skin tanned to red bronze from exposure to weather. He was dressed in Red River style—a blue cloth “Capot” (hooded frock-coat) with brass buttons; red and black flannel shirt, which served also as a waistcoat; black belt around the waist; buff leather moccasins on his feet; trousers of brown and white striped home-made woollen stuff. (*Saskatchewan and the Rocky Mountains: A Diary*. Edinburgh: Edmonton and Douglas, 1875)



McKay deserves a special place in history for preserving the buffalo. He realized they were becoming scarce and after capturing some calves began raising a herd at Deer Lodge. He later split this herd and sold some to Donald A. Smith. Portions of his herd were used to stock Assiniboine Park and Banff National Park.

Because of his facility with the French, English, Cree, Ojibway and Dakota languages, McKay played an active role in the western treaty making process and was involved in the negotiations of Treaties I to IV. He was president of the Executive Council of the Manitoba government and later became Speaker of the Upper Chamber of the Manitoba provincial legislature. In 1874 he was appointed to the North West Council.

McKay opposed Louis Riel and the other Metis resisters in 1869-70. He chose to leave the community for a short time to avoid the controversy. He was a brother to Angus McKay who was also active in the political unrest of the time. Angus was opposed to Louis Riel's methods for dealing with the Canadian government and he was arrested by Riel in March 1870. Later that year, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in the riding of Lake Manitoba and was reelected in 1874. McKay resigned in 1876; his brother James was elected to the seat by acclamation in 1877. James died on December 2, 1879

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**W.B. O'Donogue (1843-1878)**

William was born in Sligo, Ireland and went to the United States as a boy. He was always an Irish patriot and hostile to Great Britain. In 1868 he was living in Port Huron, Michigan when he met Bishop Grandin and volunteered for mission service in Red River. He became a teacher of mathematics at the Saint Boniface College and also began studying theology. In 1869 he became involved in the Red River Resistance and was chosen to represent St. Boniface at the first council of residents in November of that year. He served as a delegate from St. Boniface to the Convention of Forty and he became treasurer of the provisional government. He accompanied Riel when the Métis leader fled in the face of the Red River Expeditionary Force. O'Donoghue subsequently broke with Riel, regarding the Métis as having sold out to the British. He petitioned the United States president U. S. Grant for intervention in Red River, and then turned to the Fenians for assistance in liberating the "Republic of Rupert's Land", of which he claimed to be president. The Fenian "invasion" of October 1871 was a disaster, thanks partly to opposition from Louis Riel, and O'Donoghue remained in Minnesota, where he sought employment as a teacher. He was exempted by name from the amnesty to Riel and Ambroise Lépine in 1875, although finally granted clemency in 1877. He died of tuberculosis at St. Paul, Minnesota, on 26 March 1878.



**Hugh F. Olone (1837- 1872)**

Olone, known as "Bob" Olone, was an American, the owner of the Red Saloon in Winnipeg. He represented Winnipeg at the Convention of 24 in November of 1869. He was killed in 1872 in a bar fight at Pembina.

**John Lazarus Norquay. (1837-1913).**

John was born on 19 April 1837, the son of Henry Norquay<sup>16</sup> (Métis), and Henry's second wife, Mary 'Polly' Anderson (Métis).<sup>17</sup> John Lazarus Norquay's father was the son of Oman 'Omie' Norquay (of South Ronaldshay, Orkney), born c. 1773, who had settled at Red River with his wife Jean Morwick (Métis), a daughter of James Morwick and an Aboriginal woman. Through these grandparents, John Lazarus Norquay was related to another John Norquay, a younger cousin, born in 1841, who eventually became premier of Manitoba. In Red River Settlement, the suffixes 'Sr.' and 'Jr.' were used to distinguish between the two John Norquays.

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<sup>16</sup> Henry Norquay. Born c. 1810; married 4 November 1831, St. John's, Red River; 2d marriage 29 November 1836 at St John's Cathedral, Red River; died c. 1874.

Scrip affidavit for Norquay, Mary; widow of Henry Norquay who was born: 1810; his father: Omie Norquay (Scot); his mother: Jane Morwick (Métis); his heirs: Mary (widow and deponent); and children Jane, wife of Thomas Crowley; Joseph; Anne, wife of John Williamson; Henry; George; Isabella, wife of John Fields; Thomas; and David; claim no: 2033; scrip no: 9616 to 9623; date of issue: August 8, 1876; amount: \$160.

<sup>17</sup> Married 29 November 1836 at St John's Cathedral, Red River.

In the late 1850's John Norquay Sr. married Mary Sanderson<sup>18</sup>, a daughter of James Sanderson (of Albany Fort, Hudson Bay), and Elizabeth Anderson (Métis). In the early 1860's Norquay Sr. and his wife farmed in the High Bluff district, near St. Margaret's Anglican Church.

On March 1, 1870, Norquay Sr. was 'duly elected by public meeting of the parishioners of St. Margaret's,' to the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia. Nevertheless, in December of 1870, in the first election in the new province of Manitoba, it was Norquay Sr.'s cousin, John Norquay Jr. who was elected to represent High Bluff.

In about 1877, Norquay Sr. and family left Red River Settlement, relocating to farm at Mountain Gap, Little Saskatchewan Valley. They settled the south half of Section 12-15-18, north of John Tanner, the "one-armed Métis American Civil War veteran," whose father, Rev. James Tanner (in turn the son of John Falcon Tanner [the White Indian]), was killed under suspicious circumstances while travelling between Portage and Winnipeg in the late fall of 1870. John Tanner's home also functioned as a store and post office and his farm was known as 'Tanner's Crossing', now Minnedosa — for the ferry service that he ran across the Little Saskatchewan River, on the Edmonton Trail from Red River Settlement. A fairly large contingent of 'new settlers' had homesteaded Mountain Gap by 1883. The Norquays, Tanners, and other original Métis settlers left the area at about this time.

The Canada census shows that by 1901 Norquay Sr., had moved to Grandview, Marquette Manitoba. He died at Grandview on 24 December 1913.

Scrip affidavit for Norquay, John; born: April 19, 1837; father: Henry Norquay (Métis); mother: Mary Anderson (Métis); claim no: 2204; scrip no: 11073; date of issue: Oct. 2, 1876; amount: \$160 = ; Norquay, John Lazarus; for his living son, Robert Alexander Norquay; address: Mountain Gap; born: 17 March, 1882 at Minnedosa; father: John Lazarus Norquay (Métis and deponent); mother: Mary Sanderson (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 2863; file ref. 627197; claim no. 195

Reference:

Norma Jean Hall:

<http://hallnjean.wordpress.com/sailors-worlds/the-red-river-resistance-and-the-creation-of-manitoba/legislative-assembly-of-assiniboia/hon-john-lazarus-norquay-sr-st-margarets/>

### **François Xavier Pagé. (1833-1912)**

François Xavier was born at St. François Xavier. He was the son of Joseph Pagé Sr. (b. 1783) and his second wife Agathe Letendré (b. 1790). François Xavier married Philomène Lavallée (b. 1843), the daughter of Francois Lavallee and Josephite Morin, circa 1860. They had thirteen children born between 1861 and 1883. The family lived at St. Francois Xavier. Page was a representative to the Convention of Forty and served on

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<sup>18</sup> Scrip affidavit for Norquay, Mary; born: November 15, 1839; husband: John Norquay; father: James Sanderson (Métis); mother: Elizabeth Anderson (Métis); claim no: 2205; scrip no: 11074; date of issue: October 2, 1876; amount: \$160.

Riel's Red River Council in 1870 representing his home district of St. Francois Xavier. During the Reign of Terror by the Red River Expeditionary Force following Manitoba's entry into confederation Pagé was arrested and imprisoned by Wolseley's troops along with François Xavier Dauphinais and Pierre Poitras.

#### **Pierre Parenteau (1817-1894)**

Pierre Parenteau was the son of Joseph Parenteau Sr. and his Cree wife Susanne. Pierre was well known among his contemporaries as a skillful hunter in the great Metis buffalo hunts. He first married Josephite Delorme (b. 1823) and they had two children. He then married Marie McMillan in 1845 and in 1850 married Marie Anne Caron. One of his daughters was married to François Xavier Letendré *dit* Batoche. Pierre once owned part of the land upon which the Riel family finally settled in St. Vital.

Pierre was a member, and the Chairman of Riel's 16 man Council (Exovedate) at Batoche during the 1885 Resistance. A trusted friend and political ally of Louis Riel, Parenteau had been active in the struggle for Metis self-determination since the days of the 1869 Resistance in Manitoba. At that time he was an influential man, he was a Justice of the Peace at St. Norbert and was elected as a delegate to the Convention of 1869 and the Convention of Forty in 1870, which discussed the formation of a provisional government at Red River. He was elected a Captain of the Metis troops in 1871 and worked to repel the Fenian invasion. When Lieutenant-governor Archibald visited Red River in October of 1871, Parenteau, along with Ambroise Lépine and Louis Riel, were chosen to be presented to Archibald as representatives of the Metis people.

#### **Pierre Poitras (1810-1889)**

Pierre Poitras was born in 1810, in Fort Esperance, Qu'Appelle Valley, Northwest Territories. His mother was Marguerite Grant, sister to Cuthbert Grant and his father was Andre Henri Poitras from St. Foye, Quebec. Andre Poitras was one of the founders of St. Francois Xavier. This was a buffalo hunting family always active on the plains. The family was quite large with relations on both sides of the border. Andre, sometimes known as Henri died circa 1831 at St. Joseph, Dakota Territory. Pierre Poitras married Marie Bruyere, the daughter of Jean Baptiste Bruyere and Francoise (Serpente) on November 27, 1832 at St. Boniface. They had eleven children together.

Pierre Poitras was a representative to the Convention of Forty representing his home district of St. Francois Xavier. He was also a delegate to the previous Convention of November 16, 1869. Pierre was one of the 24 members of the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia led by Louis Riel. On June 24, 1870, Hon. Mr Pierre Poitras seconded Hon. Mr Louis Schmidt's motion "That the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia accepts, in the name of the people, the Manitoba Act", thus entering the Dominion of Canada on the terms proposed in the Confederation Act. He would also witness the signing of Treaty Number 4 in the Qu'Appelle Valley, in 1874.

For his participation in the 1870 movement in Manitoba his life was endangered, and he would have to leave along with many others. During the Reign of Terror of Wolseley's troops Pierre was arrested on August 24, 1870 while scouting with Francois Xavier Dauphinais and Francois Xavier Page. He was abused and severely beaten and wounded by the Red River Expeditionary Force. At the age of sixty, he left Manitoba because of

the hostilities and returned to the Qu'Appelle Valley for a while and then moved to Duhamel, Alberta where he died at the age of 79.

His brother François was a captain and served under Ambroise Lepine, Riel's adjutant general in Manitoba. His other brother Ignace would also become involved at Batoche during the 1885 Resistance and be tried for felony treason. His older half brother Andre Henri Jr. Poitras lived and hunted on both sides of the border but would eventually settle in the US. The descendants of his family would become involved with the Little Shell Tribe in its struggle for recognition in Montana.<sup>19</sup>

## **Louis “David” Riel.** (1844-1885)

By Darren Préfontaine

From: Darren Préfontaine “Louis “David” Riel” in Lawrence J. Barkwell, *Veterans and Families of the 1885 Northwest Resistance*. Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2011: 225-226. ISBN: 9781926795034

Louis Riel: Metis patriot, martyr, thinker and founder of Manitoba, born in St. Boniface, Red River, October 22, 1844 to Louis riel Sr. and Julie Lagimodière; husband of Marguerite Monet dite Belehumeur and father to Jean and Angelique; executed for High Treason, Regina, NWT, November 16, 1885.

Handsome, intelligent, pious, and loving, Louis Riel seemed, even as a child, destined for greatness. From his activist father, he inherited a strong sense of duty and love of community, and from his mother, he acquired an intense piety. In 1858, local priests hoped to make young Riel one of their own, by sending him to the esteemed Collège de Montréal. However, in 1864, after the trauma of his father's death, Riel left the college and went to work in a law firm, which ended after a failed courtship. He returned to Red River in 1868.

During the Red River Resistance (October 1869-May 1870), Louis Riel first came to prominence. Twenty-four years old, educated and articulate, Riel arrived home in time to participate in the Métis resistance against Canada's annexation of Rupert's Land. Eventually becoming president of the Métis-led Provisional Government, Riel formed partnerships with many French Métis, and used Métis boatmen and bison hunters to enforce the governing council's will, particularly against the “Canadian Party,” a collection of Euro-Canadian annexationists, and “loyal” French and English Métis. Riel eventually won the backing of most of the Provisional Government's delegates by advancing a Francophone-Catholic rights agenda as opposed to others, such as William Dease, who championed the Métis' corporate Aboriginal rights. With *The Manitoba Act*, Riel *et al* provided Manitoba with bilingual public and educational institutions (Section 22); however, only Sections 31-32 dealt with the Métis Aboriginal rights through the individual extinguishment of their “Indian” title to the land. As a result of these provisions and the execution of Thomas Scott (March 4, 1870) — a rabid Orangeman and francophobe — by a Métis tribunal, the Red River Insurgency, was viewed by Ontario as a “French” rebellion rather than an Aboriginal resistance.

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<sup>19</sup> Reference: Joseph-Isidore Poitras at <http://www.mendel.ca/quappelle/edwardpoitras/resident.html>



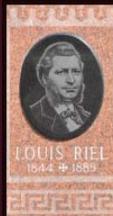
# Louis Riel

## Founding Father of Manitoba



2008

For many years, Louis Riel and the Metis were the "forgotten people". As generations pass Louis Riel and his actions continue to be revisited. In 2008, Louis Riel's contributions are symbolically recognized with the creation of Louis Riel Day, the third Monday in February of each year.



November 16, 1885

Following the trial, Louis Riel is executed in Regina. Many other Metis leaders are jailed.

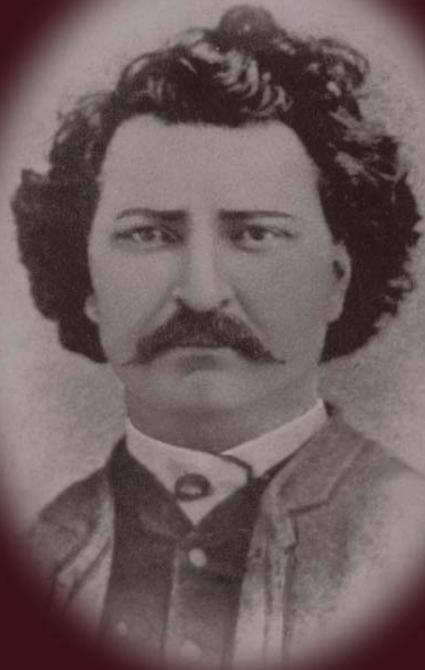


1885

The Metis of Batoche and the surrounding area ask Louis Riel for assistance to get title to their land. The North-West Resistance sees Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont wage a resistance against the Canadian government. The Metis are overcome by the Canadian army and Louis Riel gives himself up for trial.

2011

Louis Riel is officially recognized as the leader of the first Provisional Government of Manitoba.



1844

Louis Riel is born in the Red River Settlement to Julie Lagimodiere and Louis Riel on Oct 22, 1844. He is the eldest of eleven children.



1858

Louis Riel is locally educated by the clergy of Saint Boniface before being sent to Montreal to study for the priesthood.



1869-70

Louis Riel returns to the Red River Settlement as a young man who is politically aware. He becomes the President of the Provisional Government which negotiates the entrance of Manitoba, as a province, into Canadian confederation.

1870 - 1885

Immediately following the creation of the province of Manitoba, Louis Riel is forced into exile. He moves throughout eastern Canada and the northern United States before settling in Montana as a teacher. He marries and has three children. All three children pass away at a young age.



"On behalf of our Metis citizens, our METIS GOVERNMENT extends our best wishes to all Manitobans and visitors to come together and enjoy our beautiful province. Louis Riel Day is a time for families to take part in the many venues our province has to offer and remember the legacy of our Father of Confederation."

President David Chartrand, Manitoba Metis Federation

From 1870-1884, Louis Riel led a perilous existence, which included defending Manitoba against Fenian attack (1871; exile in the USA after a bounty was put on his head for Scott's execution (1871-76, 78-82); being elected several times to Parliament for the riding of Provencher, despite never being able to take-up his seat (1873-74); incarceration in Québec insane asylums (1876-78); and in the Montana Territory, marriage to Marguerite Monet *dite* Belehumeur (1882), fatherhood – Jean and Angelique were born in 1882 and 1883 respectively, working with the Republican Party, serving as a special deputy, teaching school and becoming an American citizen (1883). Then on

June 5, 1884, Riel came to the NWT, Saskatchewan District to once again fight for his peoples' rights.

Louis Riel's role in the 1885 cataclysm would have profound consequences, including the socioeconomic and political marginalization of the Métis, the subjugation of the Plains' First Nations, the preparation of the region for agrarian settlement and English and French Canada's first rift in Confederation. Through the summer of 1884, Riel tried to build consensus among the English and French Métis, Euro-Canadian settlers and First Nations, in order to address their many grievances against the federal government, including Ottawa's failure to recognize the Métis' land tenure, honour First Nations' treaties and prevent starvation on the reserves, and in not providing Euro-Canadians with proper political representation, agricultural markets and transportation infrastructure. However, this nascent coalition dissolved due to the federal government's divide-and-conquer strategy, and with the First Nations', Euro-Canadians' and English Métis' reluctance to take up arms. Thus, Riel and his adjutant, Gabriel Dumont, could rely on less than 250 Metis in their struggle with the Canadian state. After two brief guerilla skirmishes at Duck Lake (March 26) and Tourond's Coulee (April 24), and a final entrenched battle at Batoche (May 9-12), the Métis resistance ended. Riel surrendered and was prepared to defend himself and the Métis cause at trial. However, the trial was unfair: the venue and the jurors were all Anglophone and Protestant and the judge had close ties to the ruling conservatives. Riel would hang despite the jury's plea for mercy. Lucid and articulate in the defence of his sanity, Louis Riel went to the gibbet knowing that posterity would rehabilitate him and his beloved *métis canadien*.

Louis Riel's legacy has been profound. No figure in Canadian history has been more analyzed, has had more differing interpretations or has been more controversial. For the Métis and for many others, Riel was a valiant leader who not only martyred himself for his people, but was also a visionary and humanitarian, who saw the potential of the Prairie West as a place where the world's oppressed could live in harmony. For others, now in the minority, Riel was a madman, a deluded prophet, an apostate and grafter, who inflamed passions and almost tore the country asunder. In addition, Riel's voice has been appropriated for various political ends by Prairie regionalists, Québec nationalists and English-Canadians, conscious of the culpability of their ancestors in his death. Recently, however, Riel has largely been viewed as a victim of English-Canadian intolerance. In 1988, for instance, an exoneration bill, *Bill C-417*, was introduced in Parliament before dying on the floor. The bill was a cause célèbre – a debate, which continued with the CBC's and Dominion Institute's efforts to retry Riel in 2002, without Métis participation. It is significant that the third Monday in February has now been declared a Manitoba holiday – Riel Day – after, Manitoba schools were invited to name Manitoba's newest holiday. In spite of this, Louis Riel may continue to haunt Canada as long as there are conflicting visions of our common past.

### **Louis Schmidt. (1844-1935)**

Schmidt was born on December 4, 1844 at Old Fort Chipewyan. His father, Alfred "Rabasca" Smith, was a HBC fisherman and freighter and his mother, Marguerite Lespérance, was the daughter of a Red River Metis guide. Schmidt indicated that his paternal grandfather was Nicholas Andrews a HBC employee at Athabasca who was married to Marie-Anne Généreux, a Metis from Great Slave Lake. Andrews deserted

Marie-Anne and she then married Pierre Laferté and then married Schmidt. Louis said that he went by the name Laferté until Bishop Taché changed it in 1858, believing Schmidt to be his true name.

In 1854, Schmidt joined his mother at Red River where she had traveled for medical attention. He enrolled in the Brothers of Christian School and was one of four Metis boys (along with Louis Riel) selected by Taché to do advanced studies in Quebec colleges. He attended Collège St. Hyacinthe until 1861. He went to live with his mother and grandfather, Alexis Lespérance. He obtained work with the Oblates preparing Cree grammars and dictionaries then in 1863 went to Pembina to work for Joseph Lemay a customs collector. Due to problems with Lemay's wife (namely, his drinking), he was forced to move to St. Joseph where Father Alexis André took him in. In December of 1863, he accompanied Father André as the American government's peace envoy to the Sioux Indians. Schmidt then returned to Red River in the summer 1864. Bishop Taché then placed him in charge of the churches cart trains going to St. Paul, Minnesota for supplies. He was also employed as a teacher at Collège St. Boniface. In the spring of 1866, he was assigned to accompany Father Ritchot to the mission at Qu'Appelle. When his uncle, Louis Lespérance fell ill at Fort Ellice, Schmidt went there to take him back to Red River. Later that year he took charge of his grandfather's carting business and went on the fall buffalo hunt down to the Grand Coteau.

The following year Schmidt worked for a mail contractor on the Abercrombie, Devil's Lake, Helena, Montana mail route. He was badly frozen during this venture and lost some toes so he returned home with very little money. However, he received his compensation from the United States government for the Sioux negotiations completed four years earlier and used this money to outfit himself as a freighter on the route to Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. In 1869, he apparently promised bishop Taché that he would stop drinking. It was at this time that he went to live with Louis Riel.

Louis Schmidt was a boyhood friend and schoolmate of Riel and became extensively involved during both Resistances. Schmidt was a delegate from St. Boniface to the Convention of Forty and was appointed Assistant Secretary of State. He was elected to the Manitoba legislature from the riding of St. Boniface West in 1870. He was married to Justine Laviolette in 1872. After the annexation of his riding to that of St. Charles he ran in St. Charles in 1874 and was defeated. In 1878 he ran and was elected in St. François Xavier. He was also very active in the St. Jean Baptiste Society and l'Union St. Alexandre, the Metis association.

In June of 1880, in response to his ongoing drinking problem, Schmidt left St. Boniface and went to Duck Lake where he met with Father André. The priest suggested that he establish himself on the South Saskatchewan River at the site of present day St. Louis. While there, he soon became involved in the Metis grievances against the federal land surveys. In the winter of 1881 he drafted a petition to the Minister of the Interior for the residents of St. Louis and in the fall of 1882 sent a similar petition on behalf of the residents at Batoche. In the summer of 1883, Schmidt acted as secretary for the first of the large public meetings at St. Laurent regarding the resident's grievances with the federal government. In the meantime, he had gained employment in the office of a Prince Albert barrister. On May 6, 1884 Schmidt was at a meeting of English mixed-bloods and settlers in Prince Albert (again he was secretary) and he suggested that they send a delegation to Riel in Montana to obtain his assistance. Schmidt was to accompany them

but on May 12<sup>th</sup>, he received his long sought appointment to the Land Office and Father André persuaded him to stay behind. Nevertheless, he continued to assist the Metis by publishing their grievances in *Le Manitoba*. When Riel arrived, Schmidt went to St. Laurent to volunteer his services but Riel declined, believing he could be most useful to them in the Land Office. Over the next few months, Schmidt became concerned over Riel's behaviour, he communicated this to Bishop Taché and implored him to make the Metis grievances better known and thus head off violence and what he viewed as Riel's heretical preaching. By becoming vocal with these criticisms many Metis became convinced that Schmidt had not only abandoned the Metis cause but had betrayed the cause. Nonetheless, when conflict broke out in March of 1885, the government arrested Schmidt.

Louis Schmidt, *dit* Laferté, is fondly remembered in the Fransaskois community for defending francophone language rights in Saskatchewan. The Fransaskois historian Raymond Huel, for instance, has written three articles about Louis Schmidt "Living in the Shadow of Greatness: Louis Schmidt, Riel's Secretary," *Native Studies Review*, Vol. 1, 1984, pp. 16-27; "Louis Schmidt: Patriarch of St. Louis," *Saskatchewan History*, Vol. 40, No. 1, 1987, pp. 1-21 and "Louis Schmidt: A Forgotten Métis," in A.S. Lussier, Editor, *Riel and the Métis: Riel Mini-Conference Papers*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications; 1979; 1983, pp. 93-107).

#### **Thomas Sinclair Sr. (1809-1870)**

Thomas Sinclair was born circa 1809, the son of Chief Factor William Sinclair (a Scot) and his Cree wife Margaret Nahovway. Thomas first married Hannah Cummings the daughter of North West Company clerk Cuthbert Cummings and Susette McKee (Métisse) on February 9, 1832 at St. John's. Hannah died October 23, 1846. He then married Caroline Pruden on April 3, 1850 at St. John's. He had seven children with Hannah and six more children with Caroline Pruden. Thomas was a Magistrate and councillor of Assiniboia. He was a boat brigade captain who worked as an independent freighter and trader out of St. Andrews and he also operated a windmill near the rapids on the Red River in St. Andrews parish. He died on March 23, 1870 after a long illness, and the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia made a motion of condolences to the family on March 26, 1870 and noted that his son, Thomas Sinclair Jr. was to continue with the offices held by his father.

#### **Thomas Sinclair Jr. (1841-1888)**

Thomas was a member of the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia after being appointed to serve his fathers term after Thomas Sr. died on March 26, 1870.

Thomas Sinclair was born on April 9, 1841 at St. Andrews, the son of Thomas Sinclair Sr. (Metis) and Hannah Cummings (Métisse). He married Alice Mathilda Davis in 1875, then married Harriet Marie Truthwaite (b. 1858), the daughter of Thomas Truthwaite and Catherine McDermott, in 1882. Thomas and Harriet had three children: Irene, Cuthbert and Thomas. After her husband's death in 1888, Harriet married Malcolm Ross, the son of George Ross and Catherine Berland in 1898.

Thomas Jr's father died on March 23, 1870 after a long illness, and the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia made a motion of condolences to the family on March 26, 1870

and noted that his son, Thomas Sinclair Jr. was to continue with the offices held by his father.

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#### **Alfred Scott.** (1840-1872)

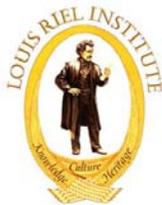
In 1869 Scott was working in Winnipeg at the Red Saloon owned by Hugh F. O’Lone. He was elected to represent Winnipeg in the 1870 Convention of Forty. He was later sent by the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia to Ottawa as a delegate to negotiate Manitoba’s entry into confederation. He left Ottawa before Father Ritchot completed negotiations, returning to Winnipeg. He died at St. Boniface Hospital in 1872.

#### **William Auld Tait.** (1826-1900)

Tait was a delegate from Headingley to the convention of 24 in November of 1869. This Scottish farmer was then elected to the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia on February 22, 1870. Later he served as a member of the Council of the north West Territories.

#### **Jean Baptiste Tourond.** (b. 1838)

Baptiste was born June 1, 1838 at St. Boniface, the son of Joseph Tourond and Rosalie Laderoute (b. 1816). He married Angélique Delorme, the daughter of Joseph Delorme and Brigitte Plouf dit Villebrun in 1861. They lived at St. Norbert and had 12 children. On October 11, 1869, Baptiste was part of Riel’s group who stopped Colonel Dennis and crew from surveying on Metis land. Baptiste represented St. Norbert at the Convention of November 1869, and the Convention of Forty January 26, 1870; he then served on Riel’s Red River Council in 1870. Baptiste voted in favor of an armed force to repulse the Fenian invasion and was elected second captain of troops from La Pointe Coupée on October 7, 1871. On October 21, 1889 he married for a second time to Regina Allard, the daughter of Joseph Allard and Julie Langevin.



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