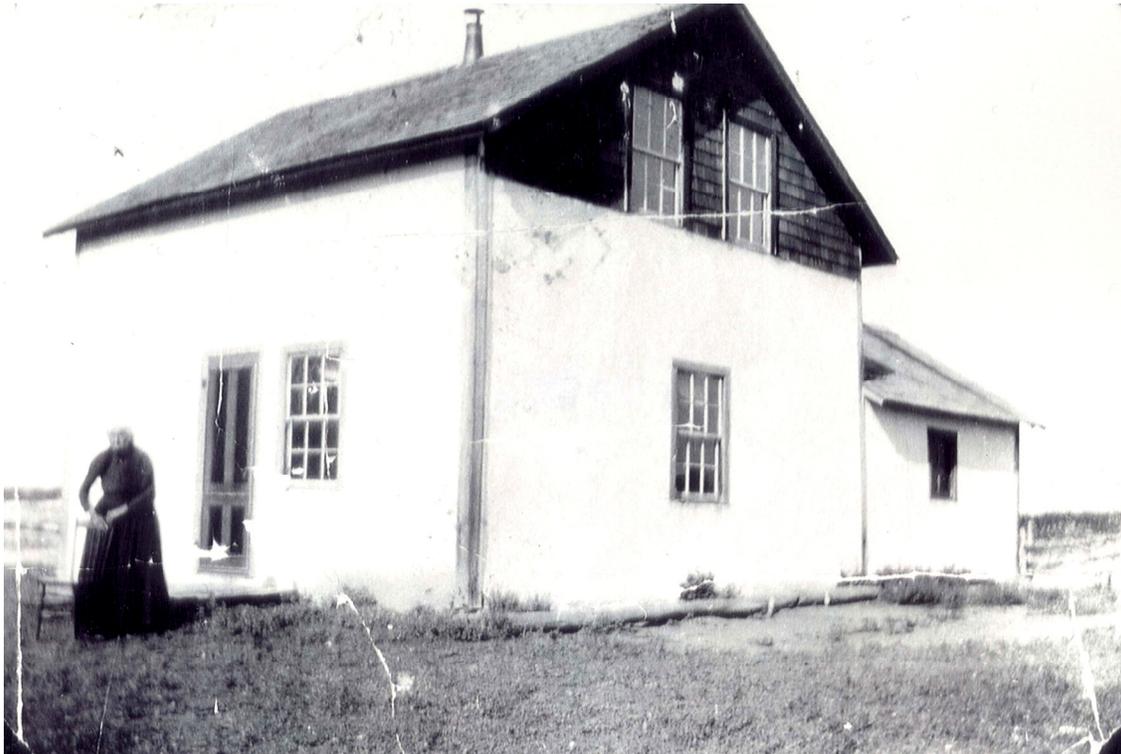


Josephte Paul Tourond. (1831-1928)

By Lawrence Barkwell, Brenda Percell and Henri Paulhus.

Josephte was the daughter of Jean Baptiste Paul born 1794 in the North West Territories and Angélique Godin (Godon) born 1805 in the North West Territories. Angélique was the daughter of Pierre Godin and Suzanne (Sioux). Josephte's paternal grandparents were Joseph Paul and Louise (Cree).

Josephte Paul married Joseph Tourond at Saint-François Xavier, on May 5, 1850. He was the son of Joseph Tourond¹ and Charlotte Gladu. Joseph Tourond and his two brothers were with Louis Riel on October 11, 1869 when Riel and 18 Metis stopped the Canadian surveyors in St. Norbert. Josephte and Joseph raised their family of ten children in the Parish of Saint-François Xavier where they farmed and ranched. In 1882, Josephte and Joseph moved their family to the Saint Antoine de Padoue Parish in the Batoche area. They settled near a creek that emptied into the South Saskatchewan River. It was called "Coulée Poisson" or Fish Creek. From then on, the area would be called "Tourond's Coulée." Josephte's family was very concerned about the Metis land claims. Her husband Joseph and sons, Calixte, Francois, and Patrice all signed the September 4, 1882 petition from St. Antoine de Padoue to Prime Minister John A. Macdonald regarding the Metis land claims.



Josephte "La veuve" in front of Edmond and Berthe Boyer's house at Batoche

¹Joseph's mother was Rosalie Laderoute (Métis). She had married Joseph Tourond, who, according to family lore, "had come with his brother from the neighbourhood of Castle Tourond in France to homestead along the Red River near St. Boniface."

Children of Joseph Paul and Joseph Tourond:

- David was born December 12, 1851. He married Virginie Fisher. He was a member of Louis Riel's Exovodate during the 1885 Resistance. He was not tried for these activities because they escaped to Montana. They subsequently took up residence at Turtle Mountain. Later he returned to Batoche and died there on September 11, 1890.
- Calixte, born April 22, 1853 at Baie St. Paul; his first wife was Marguerite Ross. He then married Joseph Gervais in 1882 at Batoche; they had three children all born at "Tourond's Coulée". Calixte was killed at Batoche on May 12, 1885, the last day of fighting.
- Pierre, born February 1, 1855; he married Catherine Gervais. He was present during the fighting at Duck Lake and was a member of Captain Baptiste Vandal Sr.'s Company. He was wounded in the thigh during the fighting at "Tourond's Coulée".
- Patrice, born March 24, 1857; he was married to Marie Gervais. Patrice Tourond and Joseph Delorme served as principal lieutenants to Gabriel Dumont. He was convicted and sentenced to a conditional discharge. After his release he lived at Alvena and was secretary for the Taché School District.
- Elzéar, born September 1, 1859; married Marguerite Breland and had two children. He was a member of Captain Edouard Dumont's company during the Resistance. Elzéar was killed on the last day of battle at Batoche. He was buried in the St. Antoine de Padoue Cemetery, Batoche.
- François was born August 21, 1861; he too received a conditional discharge for his Resistance activities.
- Charles Ménard, was born October 5, 1863; he fought at Batoche and died of consumption at age 21 on July 19, 1885.
- Marie-Thérèse was born January 18, 1866, after the destruction of their home during battle she fled with the others to the Bellevue area. She subsequently married Napoleon Joseph Venne on June 30, 1887 at Batoche. Sadly, she died from consumption at age 25 on August 25, 1891.
- Marie Élise, grandmother to Henri Paulhus, was born March 18, 1868, she too fled to Bellevue after their home was destroyed. She subsequently married Raphael Boyer, son of William Boyer and Julienne Bousquet. Raphael and Élise are the great-grandparents of Brenda Percell.
- Hyacinthe, was born March 18, 1870. Baby Hyacinthe was nearly three years old when he died on February 2, 1873. He is buried in Saint-François Xavier.

Henri Paulhus reports:

In 1882, Joseph Paul and Joseph Tourond moved the family to the Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue Parish of Batoche. They settled near a creek that emptied into the South Saskatchewan River. It was called "Coulée Poisson" or Fish Creek. From then on, the

area would be called “Tourond’s Coulée” by the local community. The family came with all their belongings and animals. The livestock included a valuable stallion, eighty head of cattle including a valuable thoroughbred bull. There was also a large quantity of household effects and implements of husbandry. The following year, 1883, tragedy struck the family. Joseph, the father, died on May 22 at the age of 56 years. Now that she lost her beloved husband, Josephte would now and for the rest of her 45 years of life be known affectionately as “La veuve Tourond,” (the widow Tourond). Now she, with her three sons and two daughters still at home, would have to press on and continue running the farm and ranch. That same year, 1883, the family, after Joseph died, the family continuing on, built a large farmhouse with all the ancillary buildings necessary to farm and ranch. The next year, 1884, they fenced the entire farm area. The future looked bright.

A story in our family tells of Mother Josephte Tourond receiving a very important guest at her home one day. Louis Riel had been summoned to come and help with the political instability in the area. One of the first people that he visited to seek support was the mother of all those young men. He had had their support during the unrest in Manitoba, and they would surely back him up in his plans here in the Batoche area. Riel would come to offer his condolences to Madame Tourond for the loss of her husband and to seek her encouragement and the participation of her sons in his plans to oppose the government. Our Grandmother Élise, as the youngest girl in the family at age 16, was asked to present their distinguished guest a token of their respect for him in the form of a bouquet of flowers or some such thing.

Marguerite’s Tourond Towson’s father was Arthur Tourond. His father, Élzéar Tourond was killed in the Battle of Batoche (May 9-12, 1885). Arthur was a big two-year old boy at the time, and Grandmother told us stories of having to flee and run with this big boy in her arms or in tow, and how Louis Riel would take the boy sometimes and run with him to help out. Our Grandmother would cry when telling us this and other stories about the rebellion, and particularly how unjust the hanging of Louis Riel was.

Josephte Tourond had fled in a hurry and as the troops had entered her farm and ranch, they burned everything, scattered or slaughtered the animals and pillaged all her valuable belongings. This included her precious horses and wagon. But she would have needed her mode of transportation particularly for the comfort and travel for her aged mother and her sick son. She was furious, and bravely she walked across the enemy line to the troops’ encampment and demanded her horse and wagon. The troops were so dismayed at the courage and bravery of this 52-year old widow that they promptly hitched up her horses and wagon, giving them to her, and watched as she rode back to her people.

The troops stole and burned all her personal effects, scattered her livestock, but even worse, on May 14, at the Battle of Batoche, they killed two of her sons. Calixte was 32 years-old and Elzéar was 26 years-old. Her sick son Charles died two months later on July 19, 1885 at the age of 22. If only the dying would have stopped there. But no, the following year David, her oldest son died September 11, 1886 at the age of 34,

and then Pierre died on March 7, 1887. He was 32, and four years later on August 18, in 1891, her precious daughter Marie-Thérèse, the wife of Napoléon Venne, died at the age of 25. In seven short years, she had lost six sons and one daughter, all very young from age 22 to 41. Patrice was the last of this group to die on September 28, 1898. All but Charles were married and they had children. [Remember, she had already lost her son baby Hyacithne in 1873 when he was three].

Josephte Paul Tourond was born July 1831 and died on December 15, 1928 at age 97 years.

Sources:

Henri Paulhus, "Josephte Tourond," *New Breed Magazine*, Spring/Summer 2008: 18-25.

Henri Paulhus, personal communications, 2008-2009.

Brenda Percell, personal communications, 2012.

Margaret Tourond Townson, personal communication 2008.

Photo courtesy of Brenda Percell, from Estelle Boyer's collection.



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