

Kah-pah-yak-as-to-cum, One Arrow. (1815-1886)

One Arrow (*Une Flèche*) was the chief of the Willow Cree Band whose reserve was located right behind or to the east of the Batoche Settlement. One Arrow was a descendant of HBC trader George Sutherland (Okayasiw) and his second wife Pasikuis (Rising).¹ His half sister, by Sutherland's first wife Papamikiwis (Swinger) was Yaskuttsu-s. She was married to chief Beardy, thus One Arrow was brother-in-law to Beardy. One Arrow's sister, Nawapukayus, was married to chief Seswepiu who had the reserve bordering Beardy's (later Okemasis Reserve).

Apparently three of George Sutherland's sons were involved in the 1885 Resistance; Chief One Arrow (b. 1815), Headman Koh-ah-mah-chee (b. 1829) and Moonias or John Sutherland Jr. born in 1826.

One Arrow was at the battles of Duck Lake, Tourond's Coulee and Batoche but given his age was not likely an active combatant. He did however direct his group of warriors. At trial, John Lash testified that One Arrow and 15 to 20 of his band joined Dumont at Duck Lake. They then came down to Batoche to the tents on April 3, 1885. François Tourond reported that Bras Coupé, Coupé's brother and One Arrow were active in a group fighting near him at Tourond's Coulée. François also noted that there was a fourteen-year old Sioux boy with a new rifle, who was afraid to fire it and followed Tourond around all day during the battle.²

In August of 2007, One Arrow's body was dis-interred from his gravesite near Louis Riel at the St. Boniface Cathedral cemetery and re-interred at One Arrow reserve near Batoche on August 28, the same day that he signed Treaty Six on behalf of his Band in 1876. "Richard John scoffed at accounts that portray One Arrow, an elderly Cree statesman, as a victim of Metis trickery at Batoche. 'He was good friends with Riel. He went to war willingly,' said John, citing treaty violations as One Arrow's grounds for raising arms. 'and he was buried here (St. Boniface) because of his link to Riel,' John said."³

The following men who participated in the Resistance were One Arrow Band members:

Acanmachini, The Rock Used to File Bones, one of the bravest warriors at Tourond's Coulee;

Atim-wah-you, Pierced Sky or Dog Tail, a Headman of the Band, sentenced to two years jail;

Dumont *dit* Cayole, François;

Dumont *dit* Cayole, Louis;

¹ George Sliwa, 1993: 21. D.G. Mandelbaum, interview with Father Le Chevalier on July 18, 1934, Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta tape # IH-DM.23, transcript disc 135.

² Société historique métisse fonds (SHM) Boite 1346, Chemise 066: p. 24.

³ Alexandra Paul, "Riel –allied chief to be re-interred as Batoche hero." *Winnipeg Free Press*, August 25, 2007: A7. Richard John is a great-great-great grandson of Chief One Arrow.

Dumont *dit* Cayole, Vital, a Headman of the Band, escaped to Montana;
Eyayasoo, Crow, arrested and sent to Regina for trial, received a suspended sentence;
Kahkwaytowayoo, The Repeater;
Kahokootayement, Trial Man or Bras Coupe.
Kaphoo, The Man Who Crossed His Hands;
Koh-ah-mah-chee,⁴ Left Handed or The Lame Man, a Headman of the band,
sentenced to three years jail;
Ledoux, Pierre;
Moonias⁵, White Man, Larocque, a Headman of the Band, escaped to Montana;
Nahpaces, Little Man, sent to Regina for trial and sentenced to two years jail;
Pascal was a member of the Chakastaypasin Band then transferred to One Arrow;
Pascumqua, La Croupe, The Rump; One Arrow's half-brother;
Sinnookesick, John Sounding Sky.

Father Cloutier's interviews with the participants indicate that One Arrow was on the west side of the river with twelve of his men during the Batoche battle. He was arrested on August 7, 1885, charged for his participation at Duck Lake and convicted at the Regina trials and sentenced to three years on August 14, 1885. At trial he had little or no defence representation and the proceedings were not translated into his Cree language. He was sentenced to three years. Due to ill health, he was released from Stony Mountain Prison after serving seven months. Since he could not travel home he was taken to Archbishop Tache's palace and died there two weeks later, on April 25, 1886 (Easter Sunday). He was survived by his wife, Ayamis. Ayamis died in 1888.



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⁴ Koh-ah-mah-chee or Koma-matchew, born in 1829, was a Willow Cree warrior from One Arrow's Band. He was a Headman of the band, band member # 25. Koh-ah-mah-chee was another of George Sutherland's sons and a brother-in-law to Chief One Arrow. Sutherland's Cree name was Akayasiuw, "the Scotch Man." Koh-ah-mah-chee's daughter was married to John Seenookesick.⁴

⁵ Moonias, John Sutherland Jr. was born in 1826. In August of 1893, Sutherland applied for discharge from Treaty from Box, Elder, Choteau County, Montana. In his claim he noted that he was the son of John Sutherland Sr. and Paskiwush and a member of One Arrow's Band. His wife is listed as Nashpagiow. The Indian Commissioner's attached note confirms that Sutherland was #6 on Beardy's Band list in 1893. In Sutherland's statement he notes that he is employed as a freighter and labourer, and does not see himself "returning to your treaty, as I don't see that there is anything to suit me especially since 1885."