

## **John Welsh (Wells, Wills). (1848-1910)**

John Wills signed the 1876 petition from the Metis of Fort Walsh to join Treaty Four. In 1878, John and other Metis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Metis reserve of land.<sup>1</sup>

John Wills was born on December 27, 1848 at St. Francois Xavier the son of John Wills<sup>2</sup> and Mary McKay. He married Julie Tanner, the daughter of Joseph Tanner and the sister of Chief Yellow Quill at St. Francois Xavier on October 15, 1869. His sister Elise Mary Wills (b. 12856) was married to Daniel Ledoux who also signed the Cypress Hills petition. John had earlier signed the 1876 petition from the Metis at Fort Walsh to join Treaty Four. John died on January 19, 1910 at Eagle Hills.

John Wills and Julie Tanner had the following children:

- Salomon Wills (b. 1870)
- Marius Wells/Welsh (b. 1871, d. 1871)
- Jean Baptiste Wells/Welsh (b. 1872)
- Alexandre Wells/Welsh (b. 1874)
- Abraham Wells/Welsh (b. 1876, d. 1877)
- Mary Athalia Wells/Wills (b. 1878, d. 1883)
- Joseph Isaac Wills (b. 1883, d. 1889)
- Charles Wells (b. 1888)



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<sup>1</sup> Requesting a re-opening of the buffalo hunt between November 14<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup> each year and the granting of Metis “reserve” land (A strip of land 150 miles long along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border. This strip was to be fifty miles from south to north.

<sup>2</sup> John Wills (b. 1799) was the son of John Wills Sr. and Joseph Grant. He married Mary McKay, the daughter of John Richards McKay and Harriet Ballendine in 1842 at St. Francois Xavier. Their daughter Elise was married to another petitioner, Daniel Ledoux.

