

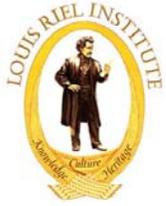
## St. Albert Mounted Rifles

In 1878, St. Albert was the largest Metis settlement in the Northwest and was one of many Metis communities petitioning the government for recognition of Metis title to the land. The formation of the St. Albert Mounted Rifles was due to the Roman Catholic churches desire to protect its Priests. Bishop Grandin was motivated to do this after Pere Fafard and Pere Marchand were killed at Frog Lake in 1885. At the time there was already a St. Albert volunteer company patrol in the community. Bishop Grandin requested permission from the Department of Militia and Defence to organize a company of men as a home guard and the company was recruited within a few days. Captain Desgeorges accepted the St. Albert Mounted rifles into Active Service of the Militia of Canada on May 25, 1885.

All of the officers except the First Lieutenant were Metis. The Militia consisted of two Oblate lay brothers, four Irishmen and thirty-five Metis. The men were armed with .45-75 caliber Winchester repeating rifles. On June 7, 1885, the Mounted Rifles marched to Lac la Biche in response to reports that the Hudson's Bay Company stores were being looted. They also patrolled in the vicinity of Saddle Lake. The two detachments then returned to St. Albert and were disbanded a few days after the arrest of Big Bear on July 2, 1885.

### Members of the St. Albert Mounted Rifles

Albert Cunningham	Charles Beaugard (Bourgard)
Samuel Cunningham (Captain)	Norbert Bellerose
Alfred Cunningham (Staff Sergeant)	Octave Bellerose (Bellrose) (Second Lieutenant)
Ed Carley	Jean Baptiste Belcourt
Peter Donald	Daniel Maloney (First Lieutenant)
Joseph Grey Jr.	Dieudonne Courtepatte
Ambroise Grey	Joseph Courtepatte
Magloire Grey (Gray)	Baptiste Courtepatte
Jeremie Auger	John O'Donnell
Joseph Chalifou (Chelifeur)	Baptiste Supernant
John Callioux	John Rowland
Michel Callioux	Adophus Rowland
Narcisse Beaudry (Boudry) (Sergeant)	Louis Chastellaine
Baptiste Besson	Lawrence Garneau
Francois Boudreau	Jean Baptiste L'Hirondelle (Corporal)
Felix Dumont	Xavier L'Hirondelle
James Laderoute	Jean Baptiste Pepin
John Laronde	Jules Savard
Patrick Kelly	Norman Vandal
Ed Nault (Neault)	Daniel Loyer
Elzear Page (Pagee)	Francois Boisgontier
Joseph Page	
Victor Laurence	



Edited and Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell  
Coordinator of Metis Heritage and History Research  
Louis Riel Institute