

Elzéar Lagimodière. (1838-1926)

Elzéar was born on March 3, 1838 in St. Boniface, the son of Jean-Baptiste “Laprairie” Lagimodière and Marie Harrison. Elzéar Lagimodière married Sarah Goulet, the daughter of Alexis Goulet and Josephte Severight in 1858. They resided for some time in St. Boniface before moving to Lorette. They had the following children:

- William, b. 1858, married Lucie Alexandrine Genthon. William went on to become a M.L.A. (1888-1907).
- Marie Virginie, b. 1861.
- Achille, b. August 1863, died September 1863.
- Roger, b. October 1864, died March 1866.
- Joseph, b. 1867.
- Lucie, b. 1869, died 1870.
- Anne, b. 1872.
- Marie Isabelle, b. 1874.

Lagimodière participated in the Métis Resistance at Red River in 1869-70, and was a member of the court martial which condemned to death Thomas Scott, prisoner of Riel’s Provisional Government, on March 3rd 1870. Scott was executed by firing squad the following day. Lagimodière and his brother-in-law, Elzéar Goulet, were allegedly responsible for disposing of Scott’s body.

Lagimodière was among the first settlers at La Petite Pointe des Chênes (Lorette), where he farmed and worked as a freighter on the cart brigades from Fort Garry to St. Paul. In May 1874, he was arrested at his home for his role in the Scott affair, but was released because he had voted against the execution and had offered to escort the prisoner out of the country. He was later elected first reeve of the Rural Municipality of Taché and was a very active member of his community.

Elzéar supported Riel during the 1869-70 Resistance and was on the court martial that sentenced Thomas Scott although he voted against the death penalty. He was tried for Scott’s murder along with Ambroise Lépine, but was acquitted. From 1880 to 1884, he was Reeve of the municipality of Lorette. His son William was elected as a Manitoba MLA.



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