

Charles Eugene Boucher, M.L.A. (1864-1926)

Charles Eugene Boucher was the son of Jean Baptiste Boucher and Caroline Lesperance. His maternal grandfather was the famous La Loche boat brigade leader Alexis Lesperance. Eugene married Helene Letendré, the daughter of François Xavier Letendré *dit* Batoche and Marguerite Parenteau. He is listed as an assistant secretary to the Council of the Provisional Government at Batoche in 1885. He became an elected MLA for the Batoche district in 1892.

Eugene was elected as MLA for the Batoche District in 1892 and re-elected in 1894. He was also a song writer in the style of Pierre Falcon and some of his songs express the sentiments of the Metis during their times of stress. His two brothers, Fred and Joseph recorded his songs for the National Museum in Ottawa.

Eugene was born at St. François Xavier on December 1st 1864, the son of Jean Baptiste Boucher and Caroline Lespérance. His family moved to St. Louis, Saskatchewan in 1882. On August 18, 1886 Eugene married Helene Letendré at Batoche. Helene was also born at St. François Xavier (on December 9, 1866). She was the daughter of François Xavier Letendré *dit* Batoche and Marguerite Parenteau. Her family had moved to St. Laurent in 1871 and were founders of the village of Batoche.

When François Xavier Letendré left Batoche in 1884 to tend to his trading posts in the Carrot River region, Charles Boucher was left in charge of his store at Batoche. Louis Schmidt wrote of Eugene Boucher:

“After having served as clerk to Mr. Xavier Letendré for a considerable time he married the eldest daughter. As he was very popular the electors of the county of Batoche sent him to represent them at Regina in the legislative assembly for two or three sessions of parliament.

After the unfortunate legislation of 1890 concerning the schools and the French language [loss], being upheld by some of his colleagues of the north of the province, he did not hesitate to propose a vote of censure to the parliament against his chief, Mr. Haultain.

He also obtained grants of money for some of the poor schools in his county, and the fine roads he had made are still in use with but very little repair.”

Reference

John Hawkes, *The Story of Saskatchewan and its People*, Vol. 1, Regina: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1924: 279-280.)



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