

## **Octave Antoine Régnier.<sup>1</sup>**

Regnier was a French-Canadian schoolteacher, farmer and resistance leader in Saskatchewan. Octave Jr. was the son of Octave Régnier Sr. and Charlotte McIntosh. They arrived at St. François Xavier on May 30, 1878 from Pointe aux Trembles, Quebec. When the municipality was first formed in 1880 Octave Sr. became the first Reeve and Octave Jr. served as the first secretary-treasurer. On November 25, 1879 Octave Jr. married Celestine Lépine at St. François Xavier. They then moved to the North West Territories and held River Lot 8 (T45-28-2) in the St. Louis de Langevin settlement. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company. (CSP, 1886, No. 45, pp. 25-28)

Octave was arrested on July 17, 1885 and on August 14, 1885 at Regina he received a three year sentence for his part in the 1885 Resistance. In his testimony to the commission on Rebellion Losses at Prince Albert on April 24, 1886 he states:

I came from Montreal and have been teaching school five years, three in Manitoba and two here before the rebellion and was teaching when it broke out at St. Louis de Langevin.

Maxime Lépine brought an order for all of us and the families to go to Batoche and I went but I was told I must go. I was brought to the Council and Riel told me I must take up arms, I refused and never consented.

I took an active part in the Rebellion but I was forced to write for the Rebel Council five or six times.

Riel had threatened to shoot and to tie my arms behind my back and send me to Fish Creek to fight and to be target if I did not fight. This was all said to me by Riel in the presence of Napoleon Gareault of Batoche. I answered Riel that he could do as he pleased but I would not take arms or change my religion.

Contrary to what Regnier wanted officials to believe in 1886, prior to that he was a strong Riel supporter. On May 20, 1884 he had written to Riel:

Cher Ami: None of us feels capable of undertaking so great a protestation against a despotic authority. Altogether we turn our regards towards you in whom are our dearest hopes and our greatest confidence, excepting some sore heads of Prince Albert who wish to pass for great minds and who fear to be ruled by you. We therefore elect you as our chief. We call on you loudly to come to our help, appreciating you as the only one able to defend us. Not only the Metis in general beg

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<sup>1</sup> A signator to the November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1883, William Bremner petition from St. Louis de Langevin for a survey and patents to their land.

you to hear their prayers, but also those of other nations who do not know you beg us to convey to you the same wishes<sup>2</sup>.

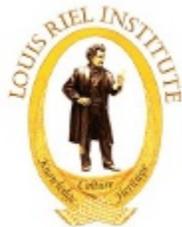
**Celestine Lepine, (Regnier).** (b. 1860)

Celestine was the daughter of Maxime Lepine and Josephte Lavallee. She married Octave Antoine Regnier on November 25, 1879 at St. Francois Xavier. They then moved to the North West Territories and held River Lot 8 (T45-28-2) in the St. Louis de Langevin settlement. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company. (CSP, 1886, No. 45, pp. 25-28).

Children:

Regnier, Eliza; address: St. Louis, Saskatchewan; born: 4 September, 1885 at St. Louis; father: Octave Regnier (deceased French Canadian); mother: Celestine Lepine (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 881 for \$240.00; claim no. 588.

Regnier, Delia; address: St. Louis, Saskatchewan; born: 25 March, 1884 at St. Louis, Saskatchewan; father: Octave Regnier (deceased French Canadian); mother: Celestine Lepine (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 879 for \$240.00; claim no. 587.



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<sup>2</sup> PAC, Dewdney Papers, Vol. 6, pp. 2284-2287, May 20, 1884.