

## **Marie Marguerite Brabant.** (1860-1934)

Sister Marguerite Brabant served as a Grey Nun at St. John Baptiste Parish, Ile-a-la-Crosse from 1888-1894 and at Lebret between 1897 and 1916. Marguerite was born at Buffalo Lake near Moose Jaw on December 24, 1860. She was the daughter of Augustin Brabant<sup>1</sup> (b. 1828) and Julie Philippe, the daughter of Jacques Philippe and Marguerite Jolicoeur. The families early days were spent roaming the plains as traders and buffalo hunters until Augustin settled to farm in the Qu'Appelle Valley in the late 1870s.

It was Father Decorby who arranged for Marguerite's parents to take her to Red River where she became a protégé of Archbishop Taché and was educated by the Grey Nuns. She took her vows with that order in 1881. She then became a teacher at mission schools, she was noted to be a gifted singer and artist. Marguerite passed away at the Maison Provinciale, St. Boniface on August 20, 1834.



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<sup>1</sup> Augustin was born at St. Boniface, the son of Augustin Brabant Sr. and Marguerite Genevieve L'Hirondelle. He married Julie Philippe the daughter of Jacques Philippe and Marguerite Jolicoeur before 1851. He died on June 29, 1907 at Lestock, Saskatchewan. Their daughter, Elizabeth was married to John Fisher. In June of 1868 Isaac Cowie met free-traders Augustin Brabant and St. Pierre Poitras along the Grande Coteau de Missouri going to trade with the Qu'Appelle Valley Saulteaux and Cree hunting parties. The two Métis had ten or twelve carts each.