

Buffalo Hunting Trail: Metis Hunt of 1845

In the fall of 1845 Father Georges Belcourt accompanied the buffalo hunters from Pembina/St. Joseph on their fall hunt. He gives the following description of their route:

The time had come when we must make up our minds as to what direction we should next take. Seeing that the hunters from the Red River had not joined us, we felt that we ought not to skirt the mountains in that direction lest we cause them trouble by beating up the buffalo in front of them. On the other hand, it was known that a number of Half-Breeds were wintering in the Turtle and Souris Rivers country, and, consequently, we could not hope for any great hunting in that neighborhood. We decided, therefore, to take a middle course and work down to the SSE, changing later to SSW. This route would bring us via Lac des Branches¹, Butte des Trois, Devil's Lake, the Little Forks of the Sheyenne², Lac du Blanc³ and Maison du Chien⁴. Public notice was given of our intention, the guides were appointed, and off we set.⁵

Thanks go to:

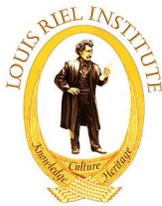
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For assistance in place names and locations.



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¹ Lac des Branches is Rush Lake Towner County, North Dakota.

² The Little Forks of the Sheyenne is perhaps a branch of the Sheyenne that flows between Pierce and Benson Counties. The Fork is located in the SW corner of Benson Co. ND.

³ Lac du Bois Blanc is Antelope Lakes (T152N-R74W) NE of Aylmer, Pierce County, North Dakota.

⁴ Maison du Chien is Dog Den Butte, called Sunka Oti by the Dakota. It is in McLean County by Butte, ND Section 3, 10, 15, Township 150N-Range 79W.

⁵ Letter of November 25, 1845, reprinted in Emile Pelletier, *A Social History of The Manitoba Metis*. Winnipeg: Manitoba Metis Federation Press, 1977: 38-44.