

Alexandre Fagnant. (b. 1869)

Alexander appears in the 1885 Resistance accounts as the adopted son of Gabriel Dumont. Alexandre was likely the son of Antoine Fagnant and Marie Ledoux, born March 25, 1869 at St Francois Xavier. His older sister Melanie Fagnant was married to Henry Cayole *dit* Dumont son of Vital Cayole *dit* Dumont (Gabriel's cousin) who was a headman of the One Arrow Band. Alexandre was one of Gabriel and Magdeleine Dumont's adopted children. Chuck Thompson, in his biography of Gabriel Dumont points out that adoptions among Indians and Metis is a two way street: girls and boys could chose to adopt an adult and vice-versa. Usually young men chose someone like Gabriel, to learn from and by becoming almost a servant (eshkabe) they could move in and become a member of the family with all the usual familial rights. That is why Magdeliene always had three or four "daughters" and Gabriel had as many if not more "sons".¹ After the fighting at Batoche Alexandre joined Dumont in exile in Montana. Elie Dumont Jr. reported:

The teenager, a good scout, remained in the background, but was always there when Gabriel needed him. Alexandre stayed around his adopted father because at that time some people didn't expect Gabriel to ever regain his agility.²

Some people report that Alexandre died in the battle at Batoche; however Joseph Fagnant Dumont told Four Souls that Alexandre assisted Gabriel during the battle and then moved to Montana.³ Elie Dumont Jr. told Chuck Thomson in 1974 that his brother had met Alexandre in Montana and Alexandre had vowed never to return to Canada and he probably didn't. They didn't know where he is buried.



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¹ Chuck Thompson, *Red Sun: Gabriel Dumont the Folk Hero*, Winnipeg, author, 1995, p. 86. An earlier version of this book entitled *Home Song*, was produced in 1977. Also, Chuck Thompson personal communications 2009. In 1962, Thompson was commissioned by Elie Dumont Jr., Gabriel's nephew to do Gabriel's biography

² Chuck Thompson, p. 246.

³ Four Souls (Little Bears son) related this to Chuck Thomson in 1979 at Lewistown, Montana.