

## **André Nault (Neault) Declarations.**

**Titre: Déclaration de 1908 d'André Nault, Elzéar Lagimodière et Duncan**

**McDougall concernant les événements de 1869-70, extraits, fo. 357-358 et 367**

**Auteur: Nault, André, 1830-1924<sup>1</sup>; Lagimodière, Elzéar, 1838-1926; McDougall, Duncan, 1837-1926**

**Source: Archives du Manitoba, MG3 B18, Dossier "André Nault Papers", fo. 357-358 et 367**

**Photocopies of the actual dictation are first shown, followed by the French language transcript.**

**An English version of pages 357 to 390 follows.**



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<sup>1</sup> André Nault was born on April 21, 1830 at Point Douglas, the son of Amable Nault (b. 1798) and Josephite Lagimodiere. Andre was married to Anastasie Landry, the daughter of Joseph Landry and Genevieve Lalonde. Amable Nault arrived at Red River in 1825.

Declaration de M<sup>r</sup> Andre Heault<sup>3</sup>

Le jour de la Toussaints  
 au matin, un peu avant  
 l'heure de la messe  
 arriva M<sup>r</sup> Provencas, que  
 M<sup>r</sup> Douall envoya pour  
 connaître les dispositions des  
 prêtres.  
 il fut arrêté à la Couronne  
 et conduit à M<sup>r</sup> Ritchot  
 qui le fit entrer à l'église  
 pour entendre la messe  
 après la messe il eut une  
 entrevue avec Louis Riél  
 à qui il fut formellement  
 présenté.  
 Louis Riél lui fit connaître  
 ses intentions, qui étaient  
 d'empêcher le soi disant  
 gouvernement de tenter  
 d'aucun acte qui eût entente  
 contre le gouvernement <sup>Canadien</sup> et les  
 habitants du pays au sujet  
 de l'entrée de l'armée dans  
 la Confédération.

Declaration de M André Neault Le jour de la Toussains au matin, un peu avant l'heure de la messe arriva M Provencher que McDougall envoyer pour connaître les dispositions des métis. il fut arrêté [arrêter] à la barrière est conduit à M Ritchot qui le fit entrer à l'église pour entendre la messe après la messe il eut une entrevue avec Louis Riel à qui il fut formellement présenter Louis Riel lui fit connaître ses intentions qui étaient d'empêcher Le soi disant Gouverneur de rentrer jusque à qu'il y eut entente entre le gouvernement Canadien et les habitants du pays au sujet de l'entrer du pays dans la Confédération.

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Vers le milieu de la journée arrive le Capitaine Cameron qui voulut faire enlever la barrière, mais André Neault et Benjamin Neault prirent les chevaux par la bride et l'arrêtèrent. Cameron eut assez peur qu'il tremblait comme la feuille il fut conduit chez un nommé Théophile Jetté et gardé à vue. Il eut Joseph Delorme pour gardien.

#### Transcription

Vers le milieu de la journée arrive le Capitaine Cameron qui voulut faire enlever la barrière. mais André Neault et Benjamin Neault prirent les chevaux par la bride et l'arrêtèrent. Cameron eut assez peur qu'il tremblait comme la une feuille il fut conduit chez un nommé Théophile Jetté et gardé à vue. Il eut Joseph Delorme pour gardien.

Louis Phil fut reconduire  
 Cameron et Provencher  
 par une troupe de vingt  
 hommes commandés par  
 M<sup>r</sup> ~~Baptiste~~ Sépine  
 avec avec aussi l'écopille  
 le pseudo Lieutenant Juvénat  
 qui s'était installé au fort pendant  
 et ~~Baptiste~~ Sépine s'occupa  
 acquitta de sa mission  
 et M<sup>r</sup> Dugall dut quitter  
 le fort pour se réfugier  
 sur le terrain américain

Je soussigné déclare sous  
 la foi du serment que  
 ce qui précède est  
 conforme à la vérité

déclaré devant  
 moi à  
 M<sup>r</sup> Vital  
 le 27 Décembre  
 1908

Joseph P. Dumas  
 le Commissaire du R.R.

M<sup>r</sup> ~~Heault~~  
 mouque

Temoin Camille Tilles

## Transcription

Louis Riel fit reconduire Cameron et Provencher pour une troupe de vingt hommes commander par Baptiste Lépine avec ordre aussi d'expulser le pseudo Lieutenant Gouverneur qui s'était installé au fort Pembina Baptiste Lépine s'occupe acquitta de sa mission et McDougall dut quitter le fort pour se réfugier sur le terrain américain. Je sousigné déclare sous la foi du Serment que ce qui précédent est

Conforme à la vérité déclaré devant moi à St Vital le 27 décembre 1908  
Joseph P. Dumas  
le commis du B.R.  
André Neault  
sa marque  
Témoïn  
Camille Teillet

### 357

On the day of All-Saints Day, in the morning, a little before mass, Mgr Provencher arrived. Mr Dougall had sent him to learn the Métis dispositions.

He was stopped at the “barrière” (gate) and brought to Mr. Ritchot who brought him in to listen to mass. After mass, Louis Riel, to whom he had been formally introduced, interviewed him. Louis Riel informed him of his intentions to stop the governor to enter until an understanding between the Canadian government and the people of the land (country was the word used in French), in regards to the adding of the land into the confederation.

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Around the middle of the day Captain Cameron arrived and wanted to remove the barricades.

But André Neault and Benjamin Neault took their (the governors and Captain Cameron) horses by the bridle and stopped them. Cameron was so scared he trembled like a leaf. They were brought to a fellow by the name of Theophile Jette<sup>2</sup> to keep an eye on them. Joseph Delorme was the Guardian.

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<sup>2</sup> Théophile Jette (b. 1832), a French Canadian living in St. Norbert, married to Delphine Désnommée.

Since the beginning of the event that precedes the “uprising” (soulèvement) of the Métis in 1869, there had been numerous assemblies where the Métis deliberated on ways they can save their rights and race. Louis Riel took charge of the direction of the movement. His party was named the French Party.

During a meeting held by Louis Riel at Benjamin Neault’s to JB Ritchot, it was decided that Louis Riel, accompanied by JB Ritchot would return to William McDougall to order him to not go beyond the English border under the current circumstances.

It was immediately decided that André Neault would go to the “Rivière Sale” (Dirty River) near St-Norbert and build a fence to stop McDougall and his agents or anyone else with suspect goals, from entering into the Red River Colony...

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...and to stop the mass to stop arms or other dangerous objects from entering the land. Benjamin Neault was designated to watch on the point of “la pointe à la Saline” (today’s St-Ambroise)

And Baptiste Neault was to go to the little lake above Jean Baptiste.

Louis Riel accomplished his mission and even gave a letter to McDougall to inform him to not set foot in the English territory before the question was resolved. McDougall obeyed immediately after receiving the injunction from Louis Riel and settled himself a few steps away from the border.

### 361

When the news arrived that one of the delegates from the provisional government was stopped at \_\_\_\_\_.

O’ Donaghue, furious, demanded that the English flag be brought down by Damas Mourisson, and had the American flag put up.

When Louis Riel noticed this, he ordered Jean Lagimodière and \_\_\_\_\_ Cyr to put the English flag back. Which he did immediately.

Louis Riel also ordered André Neault that he was to stay and guard the flag and to fire on anybody who would try to bring it down.

This incident left a lot of agitation in the fort, which already found itself divided in between O'Donaghue, and the annexing to the United States, and the...

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...Louis Riel Party, those who wanted to stay loyal to their word and keep their allegiance to England.

We, here signed, declare in good faith that what precedes is the truth.

(Signatures)

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André Neault started building the fence “barrière” right after receiving the order.

October 21, 1862.

Mr. Ritchot informed André Neault the graveness of his actions.

Mr. Neault wanted to leave to get some \_\_\_\_\_ (prendre des vivres) but on his way he ran into Mr. Ritchot who said “ you’re leaving already, let the lieutenant governor in and you will see what will happen to you. You took fire arms, flee the war for good and \_\_\_\_\_ (prends des vivres) where you can.”

Mr. Neault took his advice, and stayed at his post. (Instead of leaving)

The carts that would arrive were sent to Mr. Ritchot where they were inspected.

There were approximately 280 to 300 men of troops in St-Norbert, until the taking of the Fort Garry, which happened on November 2, 1869.

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We, here signed, declare in good faith that what precedes is the truth.

(Signatures)

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Louis Riel instructed that Cameron and Provencher be brought by a troop of 20 men commanded by CA Lépine, with the order to remove the pseudo governor who had installed himself at the Pembina Fort. Lépine refused his mission and along with McDougall left the fort to take refuge on American grounds.

(signatures)

379

In the month of July 1870 Mgr Taché wrote to Louis Riel to inform him that the Lieutenant governor was leaving with him for Ottawa. He was also asking for an escort to be ahead of them and that the escort should be under the directions of Elzéar Lagimodière.

Louis Riel informed Elzéar of what was written in the letter from Mgr Taché, and told him that he should get ready to leave.

Elzéar told him (Louis Riel) that he had too much work to do and therefore couldn't leave at this time.

Louis Riel replied that he was going to put another man in his stead and Lagimodière agreed and left with 7 or 8 men which included the escort who was to accompany the lieutenant governor for his entrance into the country (Canada)

When they met up with Mgr Taché they were surprised to see that the lieutenant governor was not with him.

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They were all strongly upset of having uselessly traveled over 400 miles.

(signatures)

381

Pierre Botineau (said Pierriche) declared to M. Duncan McDougall that he had accompanied a man from the United States that was well placed and was coming to make offers to Louis Riel.

He (the sent man) asked him (Louis Riel) to declare independence of the land and that they (the Americans) would do the rest. He told them other things, such as, they have a nice country and that they were the richest people on the planet, that they owed nothing to the world and that if Louis Riel wanted to declare independence, the Americans would find them anything they need, money in abundance, arms and ammunition. They would also take the responsibility of stopping the English from entering their country.

Riel answered that it was impossible and that the Métis were a small population that had one loyalty and that that loyalty was given. He said that he was not going to be taking it back. The delegates left for Ottawa, we

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Couldn't accept.

The American told him that Canada would make promises but wouldn't be able to keep them.

Louis Riel answered that if they don't keep their promises, we would see later.

(signatures)

383

Thomas Scott was stopped and released many times without sermor(???). He was stopped again with Schultz on December 2, 1862 but escaped and took refuge in the prairies. In the month of February he left along with those who were leaving for the battle against Fort Garry in the night of the 15<sup>th</sup>. They passed through Winnipeg with different materials, such as ladders, and rope. As they passed in front of Henri Coutu's

house, Scott entered thinking that Louis Riel was there and had the intentions of seizing him, but he didn't find him there. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 48 men passed behind Winnipeg but were intercepted by the provisional government soldiers. They were all held prisoner, including Scott.

In his prison, he insulted the guards, who were treating him well.

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The last day of February, Thomas Scott was so violent that a certain number of exasperated Metis took hold of him, dragged him outside and \_\_\_\_\_.

When the French Councilor arrived he took him (Scott) from their hands and had him returned to his cell.

The next day, March 1<sup>st</sup>, Riel, informed of what was going on, met with Scott to persuade him to remain calm.

Instead, he (Scott) insulted the guards and asked \_\_\_\_\_.

Dumas Harrison and Jerome even announced to the president (Louis Riel) that if Scott didn't go to the War Council it would be him (Louis Riel) that would have to go because they were tired of risking their lives guarding this man.

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Father Lestang and Reverend M. \_\_\_\_\_ (Ritchot??) strongly advised him and his officers to order him to death to serve as an example. They added that if he didn't do it his authority would never be recognized.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Scott passed in front of the War Council. Louis Riel walked into the room and informed the judges to be honest and to do what they could to spare his life but if he was judged guilty he would endorse his responsibility.

The council unanimously decided that he was guilty of the acts he was being charged with. Even during the council Scott insulted and defied his judges.

He was condemned to death and his execution was arranged for the next morning, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 in the morning.

The morning of the execution, Père Lestang came to the fort and gathered as many people as he could and recited the rosary.

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While they were taking out the prisoner, Elzéar Lagimodière asked Père Lestang if he could say a word to him to try to save his life and that it was very unfortunate to put a man to death.

Père Lestang placed his familiar hand on his shoulder and said, “it’s necessary Elzéar, if you do not make an example, never will your government be recognized.”

Scott was brought to the designated area for the execution and André Neault, commanding the troop (??) ordered to fire.

Scott Thomas was hit by 2 balls and fell and before anyone could stop him, a man named Guillemette (François Guilmette) turned him (Scott) on his side and fired 2 shots into his ear.

Scott didn’t move.

(signatures)