

Antoine Ouellette. (1834-1922)

Antoine, also known as Antoine Ratte, Ellette or Walette was born on December 29, 1834 at St. Francois Xavier, the son of Joseph Ouellette (b. 1799) and Therese Elizabeth Daniels *dite* Houle. Joseph was the son of Joseph Ouellette Sr. (b.1765) and Angelique (Assiniboine). Theresa Houle (b. 1805) was the daughter of Antoine Houle (b. 1781) and Josephite Lauzon.

Antoine's father Joseph II (c. 1799-1885) was the son of Joseph Ouellet and Angélique, an Assiniboine woman. He married Thérèse Elizabeth Houle and they had thirteen children. They lived at St. Norbert and St. François Xavier before moving to St. Laurent on the South Saskatchewan in 1874. However, in 1875 he received Half Breed Scrip pursuant to the 1864 Treaty with the Red Lake and Pembina Bands of Chippewa Indians. In 1875 he and his sons received scrip stubs for 160 acres each, Scrip # 375 for Joseph Sr., Scrip # 388 for Antoine and #376 for his son Joseph. In 1868, he was living with the Turtle Mountain Band and received a \$3.00 annuity payment from the American government. Joseph II fought and died at Batoche during the 1885 Resistance.

Antoine Ouellette married Angelique "Omanukwe" Bottineau (b. 1838), the daughter of Joseph Bottineau (b. 1815) and Angelique Cardinal (b. 1816) on June 15, 1857 at Pembina. Antoine's brothers were married to Angelique's sisters. Marie Bottineau, born in 1834 married Isidore Ouellette, born 1830. Josephite Bottineau, born in 1836 married Francois Ouellette born 1832.

Antoine and Angelique had the following children:

- Joseph, b. January 29, 1859.
- Rose, b. April 30, 1861. she married Norman Marion.
- Moise, b. July 2, 1863 at Lewistown. He married Elise Isabella Dumont.
- Celina, b.c. 1865.
- Francois "Frank", b. October 14, 1868 at Devil's Lake. He married Marie Alexina Welsh (Wells)
- Marie Elise, b. c. 1870 at Wood Mountain.
- Marie Philomene, b. February 25, 1872 at Lebret. She married John Wills.
- Joseph Jean Marie, b. February 4, 1874 at Wood Mountain. He died January 1875.
- Albert, b. January 14, 1876 at Wood Mountain. He died in 1877 at Fort Walsh.
- Jean Baptiste, b. February 2, 1878 at Cypress Hills.
- Marie Elizabeth, b. March 19, 1880 at Lewistown. She married Joseph Dominique Ducharme.
- Odilon, b. 1884. He married Eliza Azure.

Antoine was an independent Metis trader operating back and forth to St. Paul in the Minnesota Territory and was heavily involved in the Metis-Dakota/Lakota trade. With

the advent of the North West Mounted Police he became a scout and guide for them. When Sitting Bull came up to Wood Mountain in 1870 he was reliant upon trade with Antoine Ouellette and Louis Legare who was working for Ouellette out of Willow Bunch (Talle de Saules) as well as Joseph McKay. Joseph McKay was trading out of Fort Ellice and Baptiste Bourassa who was working for him was relieved of their whole trading outfit by the Sioux near the Milk River. Isaac Cowie reported that Antoine was trading liquor to the Indians at Wood Mountain, Pinto Horse Butte and Eagle Quills.¹

In 1877, tourists Percy Heber and his wife hired Antoine “Wallett” as their scout and guide.² They had three carts four men including Antoine and thirteen horses. They describe the French speaking Metis as Antoine their guide, George, a cook, and Villeneuve, plus an English speaking Sioux.

The first permanent settlers in Spring Creek, what is now Lewistown, Montana were the Metis. In 1879 three bands comprising of about forty families came in their Red River Carts. A few of the names that became very familiar to all were Berger, Wells, Laverdure, Ouellette, and Ben Kline who down through the years was looked upon as their spokesman and leader. They immediately filed on homesteads. The Ouellette addition to the city, for example, located near the Garfield School, and known as “Buckskin Flats,” was Antoine Ouellette’s original homestead.

In 1878, Antoine and other Metis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Metis reserve of land. His father, Joseph Sr., and brothers, Joseph Jr. and Jean Baptiste also signed this petition. This petition requested a re-opening of the buffalo hunt between November 14th and February 15th each year and the granting of Metis “reserve” land (A strip of land 150 miles long along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border). This strip was to be fifty miles from south to north. His brother Jean Baptiste Ouellette also signed this petition.

Antoine and his brother Moise also signed the petition for a Metis reserve in Montana, sent by Louis Riel to General Nelson A. Miles on August 6, 1880.

Antoine’s brother Moïse Ouellette (1840-1911) has gone down in history as one of the men who accompanied Gabriel Dumont to Montana in 1884 to bring Louis Riel back to Canada. Riel stayed for a time with the Ouellette’s on his return to Canada. Moïse Ouellette was married to Isabelle Dumont, the sister of Gabriel Dumont. Her parents were Isidore Dumont Sr. and Louise Laframboise. Additionally, Gabriel Dumont’s brother Elie was married to Ouellette’s sister Françoise Ouellette.

Joseph Ouellette Jr. (1824-1899) was the older brother of Antoine. In 1868, he moved from Red River to Wood Mountain for two years, then to Cut Arm Creek (one year), then back to Wood Mountain and Cypress Hills (8 years) then permanently to

¹ Isaac Cowie. *The Company of Adventurers*. Toronto: William Briggs, 1913: 433.

² Percy Heber, *Journal of two Excursions in the Brittiish North West Territory of North America, 1877, 1888*. Market Drayton, England: Bennion & Horne, 1879: 4. They retained Antoine through James McKay at Silver Heights.

Duck Lake. In 1874, Joseph was issued Scrip # 375 (160 acres) under the Red Lake and Pembina Treaty. In 1878, Joseph and other Metis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Metis reserve of land. In 1855, at White Horse Plains, he married Madeleine Paul; they had six surviving children. Two of their boys, Julien and Joseph were active in the Resistance along with their father. Joseph's niece Veronique was married to Michel Dumas, the farm instructor at One Arrow Reserve.

Family Scrip applications:

Walette, Antoine [R.L. Scrip #388]

[Virginia Rogers, Ah-Dick Songab Genealogy, #45s]

National Archives, RG 75, Entry 363, "List of Persons to Whom Scrip was Issued under Red Lake & Pembina Treaties ..." Halfbreed Scrip No. 388 issued May 5, 1874, under the Authority of Secretarial Decision, June 12, 1872; delivered May 5, 1874.

National Archives, RG 75, Entry 364, "Treaty of April 12, 1864, Red Lake and Pembina Half-Breeds," Scrip Stubs, Number 388, dated May 5th, 1874, 160 Acres, delivered May 5, 1874, issued to Antoine Walette, delivered to Agt. Douglass.

Son of: Oulette, Joseph and Houle, Theresa

husband of: Bottineau, Angelique (abt.1841) [VRA #45]

issue: Oulette, Francois, who married Wells, Alexa of Turtle Mountain, North Dakota.

RG15, Interior, Series D-II-8-a, Volume 1323, Reel C-14931

Scrip affidavit for **Ouellette, Angelique**; born: 1838; husband: Antoine Ouellette; father: Joseph Bottineau; mother: Angelique Cardinal; claim no: 2650; scrip no: 12222; date of issue: April 20, 1877; amount: \$160.

RG15, Interior, Series D-II-8-c, Volume 1362, Reel C-14994

Ouellette, Antoine; heir to his deceased children: Jean Marie, born: March, 1874 at Wood Mountain Post, died: Jan., 1875; Albert, born: Oct. 1876 at Wood Mountain Post; died: Dec., 1877 at Fort Walsh; address: Lewiston, Fergus Co., Montana; father: Antoine Ouellette (Métis & deponent); mother: Angelique Bottineau (Métis); 2 scrip issued for 240 acres; file ref. 947449; claim no. 221.

RG15, Interior, Series D-II-8-c, Volume 1362, Reel C-14994

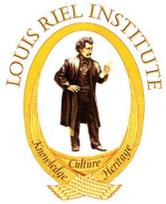
Ouellette, Antoine; for his daughter, Philomene, wife of John Well; address: Lewiston, Montana; born: 1874 at Wood Mountain Post; father: Antoine Ouellette (Métis & deponent); mother: Angelique Bottineau (Métis); file ref. 12382A; claim no. 200.

RG15, Interior, Series D-II-8-c, Volume 1362, Reel C-14994

Ouellette, John; address: Lewiston, Montana; born: 2 Feb., 1878 at Cypress Hills; father: Antoine Ouellette (Métis); mother: Angelique Bottineau (Métis); scrip issued for 240 acres; file ref. 947447; claim no. 1448.

RG15, Interior, Series D-II-8-c, Volume 1362, Reel C-14994

Ouellette, Mary; address: Lewiston, Montana; born: 19 March, 1880 at Lewiston; father: Antoine Ouellette (Métis); mother: Angélique Bottineau (Métis); file ref. 947445; claim no. 1474.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Coordinator of Metis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute