

## **Antoine Clément (1765-1848): Metis Hunter.**

Clément was in the company of Jacquot Cardinal during the exploration of the Rivière la Biche and Saskatchewan River. Clément was the Metis son of a Cree mother and a French-Canadien father. He was reportedly a crack shot whether using a rifle or the bow and arrow. His portrait “Antoine Clement: The Great Hunter” painted by Alfred Jacob Miller (1810-1874) is shown below.

In 1804, he was working for the NWC at Fort des Prairies (now Edmonton, Alberta). Two years later, he accompanied David Thompson on the trip through the Rocky Mountains from Fort Kootenay.

On November 14, 1826 at St. Louis Missouri Antoine formally married Mary Elizabeth (Lisette) Dumont (b. 1790), the daughter of Jean Baptiste Dumond *dit* Dumont and Josephite (Josette), a Tsuu T’ina (Sarcee) woman.<sup>1</sup> They had the following children: Antoine Michel, born 1811; Pierre, born 1816; Joseph, born 1821, Basil, born 1824; twins Marie and Marguerite born 1826; Elizabeth, born 1827 and Francois Xavier, born 1829.



After the Hudson’s Bay Company bought out the North West Company (1821), the couple had moved to a small farm in St. Ferdinand de Florrisant, just to the northwest of St. Louis. Either in Canada or St. Louis, twin girls, Marie & Marguerite, were born on in 1826. Later, Francois and Katherine were born in Florrisant. Francis Xavier, the youngest, was born August 1829. Previous children, Antoine Basil Jacques Marie b. c. 1823, and Elizabeth were baptized in the St. Louis cathedral. Antoine died ca. 1848 and Lizette died after a remarriage, ca. 1850. Most of the children were married in the St. Louis area.

It is reported that he attended the 1833 rendezvous at Horse Creek while working for the Rocky Mountain Fur Company. It was here that he met William Drummond Stewart and they became lifelong friends. He joined up with Stewart again at the 1835 rendezvous at the New Fork River in Montana. They travelled together during the winter of 1836-1837 to New Orleans. They continued together and attended the 1837 rendezvous at Green River and the 1838 rendezvous at Popo Agie.

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<sup>1</sup> The Dumont family were members of the Pesew Band headed by Louis Joseph Piche. The Delorme’s, Cardinal’s and Bruneau’s were also part of this Asini Wachi Wi Iniwak Band.

Stewarts older bother died in May of 1838 and William inherited the title of Baronet of Murthly, nineteenth Lord of Grandtully. When Lord Stewart left the west in 1839 he took Clément to New York and then on to Scotland. This life was not to his taste and they left Scotland in 1842, arriving back in the Rockies via St. Louis in 1843.

Reference:

Morice, A.G. (Peter Gagné translation). *Dictionnaire Historique des Canadiens et des Metis Français de L'Ouest*. Quebec: J.-P. Garneau, 1908: pp. 139-140.



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