

## **Baptiste Garapee (Guardipee, Gariepy) (b. 1832)**

Jean Baptiste was born at Red River on July 3, 1832, the son of Louis Gariepy (b. 1771) and Josephte Ducharme (b. 1806, died 1871 on the Marias River). His father, Louis was a voyageur first with the NWC then after amalgamation with the HBC. He retired to St. Francois Xavier in 1824. Baptiste's wife Julia was born in Montana in 1828. In 1878 Baptiste and his son Elie were members of the group of buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills who petitioned the government for a reserve.<sup>1</sup>

Garepee attended a French school at White Horse Plains, Canada, for two years, and this closed his scholastic education, although he has acquired in the school of life a practical business experience that richly compensates for the lack of the other. Until his father's death, in 1856, he remained at home industriously working on the farm, and after this he became a noted buffalo hunter in Canada, which occupation he followed until 1868, when he came to Montana and located at Fort Benton, which he made headquarters for buffalo hunting until 1882, when the American bison practically ceased to exist and his occupation was gone. But he was equal to the emergency and in that same year secured a ranch on the upper Teton River, eighteen miles from Choteau, Teton County, and for twelve years engaged in stockraising. This property he sold in 1896, and from that time he has resided with his son, Eli, who has a fine ranch on Cut Bank River, and with his daughter, Emily, the wife of Adolphus Fellers, living near Dupuyer, Teton county. Mr. Garepee, al--though advanced in years, is still healthy and active, and has a number of plans mapped out for hunting and trapping in the mountains. He has seven children ; Mrs, Emily Fellers; Magdaline, now of North Dakota; Johnnie, at St. Peter's mission; Charles, living on the Teton River; Mary, married and residing in Canada; Eli, owner of the ranch on the Cut Bank river, and Josephine, wife of Gabriel Selwood (Salois), now living on the Upper Depuyer River. (From *Progressive Men of Montana* p. 1557-1558)

1880 Montana Census shows: Guardupee Baptiste / white / male / age 48 / occupation Farmer / cannot read / cannot write / born Canada / father born Canada / mother born Canada / living at North Bank, Upper Teton River, Choteau, with wife Julia Guardupee, daughters Madaleine, Mary and Josephine Guardupee, sons John and Charles Guardupee, stepson Joseph Guardupee, stepdaughter Sarah Guardupee, grandson Eli Guardupee, granddaughter Julia Guardupee.



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<sup>1</sup> They requested a reopening of the buffalo hunt between November 15 and February 15 each year and the granting of a Metis reserve; identified as a strip of land running for 150 miles along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border. This strip of land was to be fifty miles from north to south.

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