

Petition from St. Louis de Langevin on November 19, 1883

Biographies of the Metis Who Signed

By Lawrence J. Barkwell

In 1883 the Metis feared losing their land to the colonization companies. A company of great concern to the Metis, the Prince Albert Colonization Company, had its headquarters in Ottawa but conducted its business in the Prince Albert area. They were granted land held by 35 Metis at St. Louis, the churches and a number of other non-Metis settlers who had been petitioning for title to their lands. The Company was owned by high ranking government officials who wished to maintain federal control over the region and enrich themselves at the same time.¹ There were rumors that the company was going to confiscate the church and cemetery at St. Louis and remove all the bodies. Dumont felt that it was necessary to have young men on patrol to see that this did not happen.

An article which appeared in the *Toronto Globe*, dated February 12, 1883, stated, "These colonization companies were deliberately called into existence in order to furnish an indirect bribery fund for the election campaign." The Prince Albert Colonization Company administered the area that had been set aside for the railroad and was in a position to realize huge profits. The land companies were unable to take actual ownership to much of the Prince Albert area because the land had previously been settled by the Metis and they were petitioning for ownership title. Because no clear title had been established for the land, emotions often ran high. In a letter to David Laird, Minister of the Interior, Father Andre said, "the lack of patents gave rise at times to serious dispute over the boundaries of claim."

This is a November 19, 1883 Petition from William Bremner, and other Metis concerning land claims which the government subsequently ignored.

St. Louis de Langevin,
19th November, 1883.

SIR.— The undersigned farmers, residents of the parish of St. Louis de Langevin, on the South Branch of the Saskatchewan, beg to set forth, as follows, their grievances in relation to the lands on which they are located.

Many of us are here since the year 1873, 1874 and 1875; others, in still greater numbers, since 1880. Each and all of us took up our lands in accordance with the method formerly prevailing on the lands of the Red River and Assiniboine—that is to say—in river lots. In the autumn of 1880 we petitioned the Minister of the Interior, at Ottawa, for a special survey into river lots, as was granted to the Prince Albert settlement, and to a portion of the St. Lawrence settlement. We all signed that petition, not excepting Michael Canny,

¹ Some of the Prince Albert Colonization Company directors were leading Conservatives: Dr. C.F. Ferguson, MP for Leeds, John White, MP for East Hastings, Thomas McGreevy, MP for Quebec West, Hugh Sutherland later to be MP for Selkirk, William Sharples, brother-in-law to MP, A.P. Caron (Minister of Militia), Duncan Plumb (son of J.P. Plumb, MP for Niagara), J. Aikens (son of the Minister of Inland Revenue), A.T. Galt, brother of M.H. Galt MP for Montreal West and J.C. Jamieson, son-in-law of Mackenzie Bowell, Minister of Customs.

who has since entered his lot at your office as a sectional lot, and against whose action we hereby strongly protest.

Since that date we have sent more petitions, at various times, for the same object, supporting the same with the influence of all persons in authority who took an interest in us, such as Messrs. J. Royal, M.P., D.H. Macdonall, Member North-West Council; L. Clarke, His Lordship Bishop Grandin, and Father Leduc.

Finally, Father Leduc, who had been sent as a delegate to Ottawa by the people of Edmonton and St. Albert, showed us the answer of the Government promising a special survey for all located lands on the Saskatchewan. Since then we have waited in vain for the new survey.

As we stated at the beginning, many of us have occupied our lots long enough to entitle us to patents, and yet there has been no way, as yet, of getting them entered at your office.

We beg of you to represent to the Government the grievances herein part set forth, and urge them to put an end thereto as quickly as possible for the welfare and peace of loyal subjects of Her Majesty the Queen of England.

Your humble servants,

William Bremner Jun.	L. E. Letendre
Maxime Lepine	Wm. Letendre
Octive Regnier	Wm. Swain
Baptiste Boucher	Elzear Swain
William Bremner	Willie Bruce
John Ouellette	Ant. Richard
Chs. Lavallee	Isadore Boyer
Isadore Dumas	Solomon Boucher
James Short	J. B. Boucher Jun.
Ambroise Dumont	L. Schmidt
Eugene Boucher	Jos. Dumas
Henry Smith	Modeste Laviolette
Chs. Nolin	Moise Bremner
Norbert Turcotte	Jonas Laviolette
Solomon Turcotte	Alex Bremner

30 signatures

Biographies

Baptiste Boucher. (1838-1911)

Jean Baptiste was born at Red River on July 26, 1838, the son of Jean Marie

Boucher² and Catherine Minsey. He was married to Caroline Lespérance, the daughter of Alexis Bonami Lesperance. They moved to St. Louis on the South Saskatchewan from St. François Xavier in 1882. They founded the so-called Boucher Colony.

Jean-Baptiste Boucher and his family arrived, at their homestead on Riverlot 12, by cart and oxen from the Red River District in 1882. He became involved in the writings of petitions requesting the government do land surveys and also took an active part in the 1885 Resistance. From July until November of 1884 Louis Riel and his family stayed with Charles Nolin at the Boucher Colony. From this home base, Riel along with Gabriel Dumont and other executive committee members addressed gatherings at Lindsay School near Red Deer Hill, Halcro Settlement and Prince Albert. After the resistance of 1885 Jean-Baptiste returned to his farm and to avoid capture and prosecution. He dug himself a hole on the top of the riverbank where he had a good view of his house to the south and of the river to the north. He later escaped to the United States but returned when he was granted amnesty in May of 1886. A Metis flag, paying tribute to Jean-Baptiste and his family, flies above his hideout that can be seen to this day.

Charles Eugene “Boss”Boucher,³ M.L.A. (1864-1926)

Charles Eugene Boucher was the son of Jean Baptiste Boucher and Caroline Lesperance. He married Helene Letendré daughter of François Xavier Letendré *dit* Batoche and Marguerite Parenteau. He is listed as an assistant secretary to the Council of the Provisional Government at Batoche in 1885. He is listed as one of the reinforcements going to Gabriel Dumont’s aid at Tourond’s Coulee. He became an elected MLA for the Batoche district in 1892.

Eugene was elected as MLA for the Batoche District in 1892 and re-elected in 1894. He was also a song writer in the style of Pierre Falcon and some of his songs express the sentiments of the Metis during their times of stress. His two brothers, Fred and Joseph recorded his songs for the National Museum in Ottawa.

Eugene was born at St. François Xavier on December 1st 1864, the son of Jean Baptiste Boucher and Caroline Lespérance. His family moved to St. Louis, Saskatchewan in 1882. On August 18, 1886 Eugene married Helene Letendre at Batoche. Helene was also born at St. François Xavier (on December 9, 1866). She was the daughter of François Xavier Letendre *dit* Batoche and Marguerite Parenteau. Her family had moved to St. Laurent in 1871 and was founders of the village of Batoche.

When François Xavier Letendre left Batoche in 1884 to tend to his trading posts in the Carrot River region, Charles Boucher was left in charge of his store at Batoche. (Contributed by Heather Hallett.)

Louis Schmidt wrote of Eugene Boucher:

After having served as clerk to Mr. Xavier Letendre for a considerable time he married the eldest daughter. As he was very popular the electors of the county of Batoche sent him to represent them at Regina in the legislative assembly for two or three sessions of parliament. After the unfortunate legislation of 1890 concerning the schools and the French language [loss], being upheld by some of his colleagues of

² J.M. Boucher had HBC lot 1212 at Red River (Register B).

³ A signator to the November 19th, 1883, William Bremner petition from St. Louis de Langevin for a survey and patents to their land. (CSP, 1886, Vol. 12, No. 45, pp. 25-26)

the north of the province, he did not hesitate to propose a vote of censure to the parliament against his chief, Mr. Haultain. He also obtained grants of money for some of the poor schools in his county, and the fine roads he had made are still in use with but very little repair.⁴

In the late 1800s, Charles Boucher immigrated to Montana and lived in the Musselshell (Coquille) River area from 1898 to 1908. He then returned to St. Louis de Langevin.

Jean Baptiste Boucher, Jr. (1861-1943)

Jean Baptiste was born on June 30, 1861, the son of Jean Baptiste Sr. and Caroline Lesperance. He married Maria Bremner. He was an active fighter during the 1885 Resistance. Boucher was a deputy lands officer from 1888 to 1895.

Salomon Boucher. (b. 1862)

Salomon was born at St. François Xavier, the son of Jean Baptiste Boucher Sr. and Caroline Lesperance. He married Rose Marie Ouellette, the daughter of Moïse Ouellette and Isabelle Dumont. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company.

Salomon was a member of Captain Corbet Flamant's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. The Provisional Council minutes of April 16, 1885 show an order for Salomon Boucher, Modeste Rocheleau and François Vermette to go and hunt up men, arms and ammunition as far as the McIntosh farm and its neighborhood.⁵

Isidore Boyer. (1829-1885)

Isidore was born on December 28, 1829 at St. François-Xavier. He was the son of Pierre Boyer and Marguerite Bonneau. A resident of St. Louis de Langevin he was married to Marguerite Allery *dit* Henry. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company.

Isidore was a member of Captain James Short's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. Isidore fought and died during last day of fighting at Batoche, May 12, 1885. He is buried at St. Antoine de Padoue Cemetery, Batoche.

Alexandre Bremner. (1857)

Alexandre was the son of William Bremner⁶ and Mary Hogue. Alexandre lived on the west half of River Lot 33 and the east half of River Lot 34 (T43-27-2) at St. Louis de Langevin. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company.

⁴ John Hawkes, *The Story of Saskatchewan and its People*, Vol. 1, Regina: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1924: 279-280.

⁵ Canada Sessional Papers, "Minutes of the Provisional Government, April 1885." 1886, Vol. 13, (No. 43), pp. 41-49.

⁶ William Bremner held HBC lots 1283 and 1284 at RedRiver (Register B).

Alexandre Bremner was a member of Captain Corbet Flamant's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance.

Moïse Bremner.⁷ (b. 1862)

Moïse was the son of William Bremner and Mary Hogue. He married Rose Boucher after 1885. They lived on River Lot 17 (T45-27-2) at St. Louis de Langevin. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company.

He was a member of Captain Baptiste Boucher's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance.

William Bremner Sr. (b. 1822)

William was the son of Alexandre Bremner and Elizabeth Twatt. He married Marie Gariépy. They lived on River Lot 16 (T45-27-2) at St. Louis de Langevin on the South Saskatchewan. William sent a petition regarding Metis grievances to Ottawa from St. Louis de Langevin on November 19, 1883 (CSP, 1886, No. 45, pp. 25-28) protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company. (CSP, 1886, No. 45, pp. 25-28). He was a member of Captain Baptiste Boucher's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance.

William Bremner Jr. (b. 1859)

William was the son of William Bremner and Marie Hogue. He married Celine Dumas, the daughter of Michel dumas and Adelaide Lesperance. During the 1885 Resistance he was a member of Captain Auguste Laframboise' Company.

William Bruce. (b. 1850)

William was born in Kildonan the son of John Bruce (d. 1850) and Jane Anne Hichenburg (d. 1850). William Bruce lived on River Lot 26 (T45-27-2) at St. Louis de Langevin. He was first married to Elizabeth Richard (d. 1880, buried at Baie St. Paul), two children survived. His second marriage was to Marie Therese Boyer. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company. (CSP, 1886, No. 45, pp. 25-28). He eventually prevailed and obtained title to his land. (Contributed by Nellie Larocque.)

He was a member of Captain Philippe Gariépy's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. Louis Riel sent William Bruce, Edouard Dumont, and Pierre Vandal to Fort à la Corne to get Elie Dumont, David Venne, Alex Venne and Batoche but only Elie was willing to come back. Bruce later defected from the Metis side, having fled from Tourond's Coulee after the first round of fighting.

Isadore Dumas. (1851-1928)

Isidore was born at St. Vital the son of Michel Dumas Sr.⁸ and Henriette Landry. He is the uncle of Michel Dumas Jr. He married Pélagie Smith on February 17, 1873 at St. Laurent. Isidore was one of Dumont's Captains; the soldiers in his unit were Jerome

⁷ Signator to his father's 1883 petition.

⁸ Michel Dumas Sr. held HBC lots 318, 924, 927, 984, 985 and 986 at Red River.

Henry, Jim Short, Pierre Laverdure, Lagloire Boyer, Pierre Henry, Leon Ferguson, Gilbert Breland and Isidore Villeneuve. Isidore was involved in the 1885 Resistance at Duck Lake, Tourond's Coulee and Batoche with Dumont.

Joseph Patrice Dumas. (b. 1863)

Joseph was born on March 27, 1863 at St. Vital, the son of Michel Dumas Sr. and Henriette Landry. He is the brother of Isidore Dumas and the uncle of Michel Dumas Jr.; his mother was Michel Sr.'s second wife. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company.

Joseph was a member of Captain Corbet Flamant's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. After 1885, Joseph moved to southern Alberta where he was employed in ranching.

Ambroise Dumont Sr. (1856-1885)

Ambroise was the son of Jean "Petit" Dumont and Domitilde Gravelle. On January 20, 1880 he married Justine Short at St. Laurent. They had four children: Rosalie, Joseph Philippe, Jean Louis and Ambroise Jr. (born June 7, 1885 after his father's death). On November 19, 1883 Ambroise Sr. had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company. (CSP, 1886, No. 45, pp. 25-28). He was active with his father and brothers during the 1885 Resistance was wounded in battle and later died.

Charles Martin Lavallee Sr. (1832)

Charles was the son of Martin Lavallee⁹ and Marie Lambert dit Robert. He married Marguerite Courchene. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company. (CSP, 1886, No. 45, pp. 25-28)

He and his sons were active in the Resistance and appear on Philippe Garnot's list. Charles was wounded during the resistance fighting.

Jonas Laviolette.

Charles Jonas Laviolette was born at SFX, the son of Charles Laviolette and Therese Moreau.

Modeste Laviolette. (b. 1855)

Modeste was the son of Charles Laviolette¹⁰ and Therese Moreau *dit* Ducharme. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company.

He was also a member of Captain Ambroise Champagne's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. Elie Dumont mentions Modeste as a member of a group of seven men fighting as a unit on the fourth day of

⁹ Martin Lavallee held HBC lots 257, 709 and 713 at Red River.

¹⁰ From 1823 to 1840 when he retired Charles was employed with the HBC as a Middleman and fisherman. He is recorded in the Red River census of the Catholic Settlement in 1849.

battle at Batoche.¹¹ The group consisted of Elie Dumont, Patrice Tourond, Baptiste Deschamps, Edward Fitcall, Modeste Laviolette, Patrice Dumont and Salomon Boucher.

Maxime Lepine. (1836-1897)

Maxime was born in St. Boniface, the son of Jean Baptiste Berard dit Lepine and Julia Henry. Maxime married Josephte Lavallee in 1857. They had six children who lived to adulthood. He lived in St. Francois Xavier in the 1870s and ran a freighting company that used Red River Carts to transport goods as far west as Fort Carlton and Isle-a-la-Crosse, and south to Pembina and St. Paul, Minnesota. He was a brother-in-law by marriage and a close friend of Louis Riel. Maxime was elected to the Manitoba legislature in 1874 as MLA for St. Francois Xavier. He left the province in 1882 and moved to Dt. Louis de Langevin. He operated a ferry from his river lot and farmed. He was a member of Riel's Exovedate during the 1885 Resistance. He and his two sons were in the Metis Militia and fought during the Resistance. He was sentenced to seven years imprisonment for these activities.

Louis Eugene Letendre. (1832-1911)

Louis was the son of Louis Sr. (b. 1801) and Marie Hallett. He first married Marie Beaugard *dit* Champagne, Angelique Dumas then Julie Delorme. They lived on River Lot 7 (T45-28-2) at St. Louis de Langevin. Louis was the older brother of Francois-Xavier and Andre. Edouard Dumont, Charles Thomas, Moise Parenteau and Emmanuel Champagne were his brother's-in-law. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company. (CSP, 1886, No. 45, pp. 25-28)

Isidore Parenteau and Louis Letendré were sent 120 miles on snowshoes to the Eagle Hills in the Battle River district to enlist Assiniboine reinforcements. Louis was a member of Captain Baptiste Vandal Sr.'s company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. He died in 1911 at Batoche. He is buried at St. Antoine de Padoue Cemetery, Batoche.

William Letendre. (b. 1859)

William was the son of Louis Letendré and Marie Beaugard. He married Melanie Fagnant. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company. (CSP, 1886, No. 45, pp. 25-28)

He was a member of Captain Calixte Lafontaine's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. William settled north of the Battleford area after 1885.

Octave Antoine Regnier.

Regnier was a French-Canadian schoolteacher, farmer and resistance leader in Saskatchewan. Octave Jr. was the son of Octave Régnier Sr. and Charlotte McIntosh. They arrived at St. François Xavier on May 30, 1878 from Pointe aux Trembles, Quebec. When the municipality was first formed in 1880 Octave Sr. became the first Reeve and Octave Jr. served as the first secretary-treasurer. On November 25, 1879 Octave Jr.

¹¹ Cloutier, *op cit*, Vol. 2: 108.

married Celestine Lépine at St. François Xavier. They then moved to the North West Territories and held River Lot 8 (T45-28-2) in the St. Louis de Langevin settlement. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company. (CSP, 1886, No. 45, pp. 25-28)

Octave was arrested on July 17, 1885 and on August 14, 1885 at Regina he received a three year sentence for his part in the 1885 Resistance. In his testimony to the commission on Rebellion Losses at Prince Albert on April 24, 1886 he states:

I came from Montreal and have been teaching school five years, three in Manitoba and two here before the rebellion and was teaching when it broke out at St. Louis de Langevin.

Maxime Lépine brought an order for all of us and the families to go to Batoche and I went but I was told I must go. I was brought to the Council and Riel told me I must take up arms, I refused and never consented.

I took an active part in the Rebellion but I was forced to write for the Rebel Council five or six times.

Riel had threatened to shoot and to tie my arms behind my back and send me to Fish Creek to fight and to be target if I did not fight. This was all said to me by Riel in the presence of Napoleon Gareault of Batoche. I answered Riel that he could do as he pleased but I would not take arms or change my religion.

Contrary to what Regnier wanted officials to believe in 1886, prior to that he was a strong Riel supporter. On May 20, 1884 he had written to Riel:

Cher Ami: None of us feels capable of undertaking so great a protestation against a despotic authority. Altogether we turn our regards towards you in whom are our dearest hopes and our greatest confidence, excepting some sore heads of Prince Albert who wish to pass for great minds and who fear to be ruled by you. We therefore elect you as our chief. We call on you loudly to come to our help, appreciating you as the only one able to defend us. Not only the Metis in general beg you to hear their prayers, but also those of other nations who do not know you beg us to convey to you the same wishes¹².

James “Timous” Short. (b. 1834)

James “Little Dog” Short also referred to as James Mass, was the son of Jacques Short and Charlotte Gladu. He married Mathilde McGillis on September 13, 1861 at St. François Xavier, they had eleven children. James had HBC lot 1484 before moving west. They lived at Lot 9 (T45-1-3) in the St. Laurent Settlement. He was a Captain of one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. James Short fought at Duck Lake, Tourond’s Coulee and Batoche under Dumont. Because of his Resistance activities he was charged with treason-felony. He was arrested on July 11, 1885, found guilty and on August 14, 1885 at Regina was sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

¹² PAC, Dewdney Papers, Vol. 6, pp. 2284-2287, May 20, 1884.

Elzear Swain. (b. 1855)

Elzéar was the son of John Swain¹³ and Marie Allary. He married Justine Ducharme on April 6, 1874 at Duck Lake. They had six children. He then married Caroline Schmidt *dit* Laferté in 1883 at St. Laurent de Grandin and had three more children. Of these children, Elzéar Jr. and Rose Yvonne moved to Havre, Montana and Edmund moved to Saddle Lake, Alberta. On November 19, 1883 Elzéar Sr. had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company. (CSP, 1886, No. 45, pp. 25-28)

He was a member of Captain Antoine Lafontaine's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. Swain and Frederick Fidler deserted and surrendered at Prince Albert. Later, Swain was arrested on April 19, 1885, charged with treason felony but on August 4, 1885, although he pled guilty he was given a discharge by Magistrate Richardson. The Crown Attorney, Robinson, said at the time:

There are four of these prisoners, with regard to whom the Crown propose to take no proceedings, Elzear Swain, Frederick Fidler, Andre Nolin and Daniel Parenteau. With regard to these prisoners there, are so many extenuating circumstances in their cases, although they were undoubtedly implicated in this rebellion, it is so questionable whether they acted entirely of their own free will, that counsel for the Crown thought it right not to ask for sentence upon them at all but to discharge them upon their own recognizance, to appear should they be called upon hereafter at any time.¹⁴

Wm. Swain Sr. (b. 1838)

William was the son of John Swain¹⁵ and Marguerite Allery. He married Angelique Hamelin. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company. (CSP, 1886, No. 45, pp. 25-28)

He was a member of Captain Baptiste Primeau's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. William was wounded during the fighting at Batoche.

Norbert Turcotte. (b. 1855)

Norbert, a schoolteacher, was the son of Vital Turcotte¹⁶ and Madeleine Caplette. His father, Vital Turcotte and his uncle Jean Baptiste Turcotte were both signators of the 1892 Treaty of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Band.

He married Josephte Lépine. They lived at St. Louis de Langevin near the home of his father-in-law Maxime Lépine (Lots 3 and 4 (T45-27-2)). On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company. (CSP, 1886, No. 45, pp. 25-28)

Norbert was a member of Captain Corbet Flamant's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. His nephew Napoleon Turcotte

¹³ John Swain, was the son of James Swain and grew up in the family home at Lot 163, St. Andrews Parish, Red River. John had HBC lot 1311 and his father had lots 450 and 1281. James was employed as Middleman for the HBC between 1855 and 1858.

¹⁴ CSP, Vol. 13, No. 52-370.

¹⁵ See fn. 230.

¹⁶ Vital Turcotte had HBC lot 930 at Red River.

was also active in the Resistance. Norbert reported later that he got caught up in the Resistance when he had attended Batoche for William Jackson's christening. They then took him up to Duck Lake but he was not involved in the fighting. He deserted that night and returned home. Within a week, two armed men came for him and he subsequently remained at Batoche.¹⁷



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¹⁷ Thomas White, CSP, Department of the Interior, 1887.