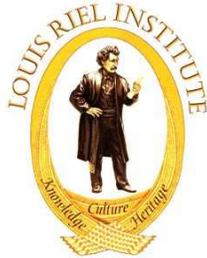

The Boundary Commission's Metis Scouts The 49th Rangers



Larry Haag and Lawrence Barkwell

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NOTICE TO READERS

It would be of enormous interest and greatly appreciated if the readers who are related to any of these men could pass on to us (in copy form) any information they may have, such as written oral history the family may have, documented information such as any government forms, letters or notices, also any old pictures that they may have on an ancestor that served with the 49th Rangers. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Contact: Lawrence Barkwell, e-mail: lbarkwel@mmf.mb.ca Phone (204) 586-8474 or Larry Haag, e-mail: larha@mts.net Phone: 1-204-269-2347

All the photos in this booklet (unless otherwise labeled) are provided courtesy of the Boissevain Community Archives, MG1/B3, the Cartwright Collection

British-Canadian Boundary Commission, 1872-73 **The Metis Armed Escorts and Scouts** **Members of the 49th Rangers**

Treaties and Boundaries

It took four separate treaties to establish the U.S.-Canadian border. The Treaty of Paris in 1783 ended the American Revolution and established boundaries between U.S. and the colonies of British North America. The boundary consisted of 17 segments and extended only as far west as Lake of the Woods. The Treaty of 1818 established the boundary from the northwest corner of the Lake of the Woods south to the 49th parallel, thence west for 853 miles to the Rockies. The Anglo-Russian Treaty of 1825, between Russia and Great Britain, established an ambiguous 1,476 mile boundary between Canada and Russian America (Alaska), including the southern panhandle and north along the 141st Meridian. In 1846 the Oregon Treaty divided Oregon Country between British North America and the U.S. by extending the 49th Parallel to the Pacific Coast.¹

The London Convention of 1818 was true to its diplomatic pedigree—straightforward yet pompous, definitive yet vague—but at least its grasp of geography was slightly more refined than that exhibited some thirty-five years earlier in the Treaty of Paris (a document that an earlier commentator had termed an exercise in “manifest geographical ignorance”).

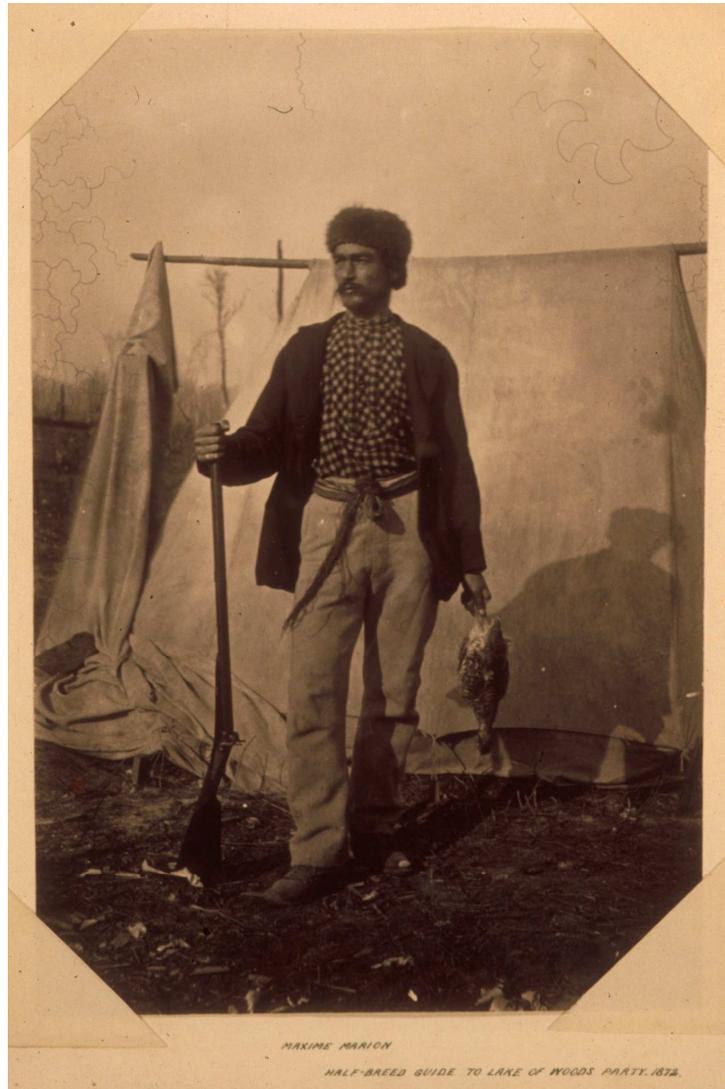
In that treaty (the main in point of which was Britain's formal acceptance of American independence), the boundary had been defined as running from the northwestern-most point of Lake of the Woods, west to the source (or sources) of the Mississippi (River) and thence south down the middle of the river. If the Americans were going to insist on anything in their endgame negotiations with the British, it was that the future of the Mississippi was to be entirely a matter between themselves and the Spanish (who then owned everything west of the river). It was also obvious from the wording of the treaty that no one sitting around the table in Paris in 1783 had anything but the vaguest idea of where either the northwestern-most point of Lake of the Woods or the source of the Mississippi actually was.

What had become obvious to everyone in the years between the Paris treaty and the London convention was that the source of the Mississippi was anything but west of Lake of the Woods. As we now know (and as they were beginning to suspect as early as 1800), the Mississippi is born in Minnesota's Lake Itasca more than 150 miles directly south of Lake of the Woods.²

In 1872 the formal survey of the border between Canada and the United States began. The Commission surveyed from the Northwest Angle of the Lake of the Woods to the Red River over the winter of 1872-73. They used Metis guides and Chippewa men to assist them with this task. Maxime Marion, pictured below, was employed as a guide for this part of the survey. During 1873 and 1874 the Commission surveyed from Pembina to the Rocky Mountains. The British Commission employed William Hallett and 30 armed Metis guides and scouts, the subject of this monograph.

¹ Marc Cheves *American Surveyor Magazine* , July 1, 2006.

² Tony Rees, *Arc of the Medicine Line*, Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre, p.42.



Maxime Marion

Maxime Marion, the Boundary Commission guide in 1872-73 east of the Red River was born April 25, 1838, at St. Boniface was the son of Narcisse Marion and Mary Bouchard. On September 1, 1862 at Pembina, he married Elise Jerome, daughter of Martin Jerome and Elizabeth Wilkie. Jean Baptiste Wilkie, the Metis chief, was his uncle. Maxime was a signatory to the Turtle Mountain Treaty of July 13, 1892. He and his family appear on the Turtle Mountain Band census 1888-1892.

The British and American boundary commissioners had completely different approaches toward the provision of armed escorts for the survey. Captain Donald Roderick Cameron believed that by using 30 armed Metis scouts he would be far less likely to stir up hostilities with the First Nations of the plains. In addition, the Manitoba lieutenant governor Adams Archibald had sent another Metis, Pascal Breland out to talk to the plains Indians to explain the purpose of the survey. In contrast, the Americans under commissioner Lieutenant Albany Featherstonehaugh provided their surveyors with an armed escort of 70 infantry and 160 Cavalry.³

³ Major Marcus Reno was in overall command of Company K of the 20th Infantry from Fort Pembina and two full companies (D and I) of the 7th Cavalry .

In April of 1873, Pascal Breland travelled from Fort Qu'Appelle to Wood Mountain to meet with the Sioux regarding the boundary survey. He arrived on April 19, 1873 to find the Yanktonais Sioux camped with a large party of Metis under the leadership of Pierre Berger. The Lakota had previously departed but he met with Dakota leaders Struck by the Ree, Two Dogs,⁴ Ehannaienke, Napitchota, Matoienke, Wakiendota and White Cap. Joseph Mitchel and Jacques Hamelin, two Metis, acted as his interpreters. The Sioux reaffirmed their historic peaceful relations with the British.⁵

In 1873, Commissioner Cameron chose William Hallett as Chief Scout to recruit a group to protect the British contingent from Sioux Indians or anyone else who might try to molest them. The scouts provided their own horses and were provided with Spencer carbines.⁶ They were intended to act as guides, hunters and herdsman. The budget was £4000 per year for the thirty men who were recruited. Hallett assigned Adam McDonald as deputy commander and Francois Gosselin, Guillaume Lafournaise and William Gaddy as sub-leaders. D'Arcy East took over with Crompton as deputy when Hallett died in the winter of 1873. Once the commission completed its work on October 13, 1874 the 49th Rangers were disbanded and the Metis scouts discharged.



In the summer of 1873, the British/Canadian boundary commission put over 280 men into the field. Under the direction of 18 Royal Engineers officers, these men, both surveyors and civilian support staff, moved more than 100 wagons of various size and function, from heavy supply wagons drawn by fifty pairs of oxen to water wagons, field ambulances and sprung light wagons for the surveying instruments. The American commission, made up almost exclusively of officers and men from the US Army and their 7th Cavalry escort, was slightly smaller, since it made use of the military forts along the Missouri River to keep its supply lines shorter. While the escorts were always on the alert for trouble with the Sioux or Assiniboine, relations between the commissions and the resident populations remained cordial, based largely on mutual curiosity. While there were a few raids on commission supply depots, there was no serious trouble from either side.

During the winter work east of the Red River, the British commission hired substantial numbers of Aboriginal men to transport supplies out to the field camps. The most significant Native presence, however, were the Metis horsemen who made up the 49th Rangers. Acting as a military escort, the Rangers were also responsible for marking trails and finding appropriate

⁴ On July 16, 1884, Lieutenant Rowe of the Boundary Commission would paint pictures of Struck by the Ree, Two Dogs and White Cap when they met them south of Wood Mountain. These pictures are shown later in this document.

⁵ David G. McCrady, *Living with Strangers*, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2006: 41-43.

⁶ A manually operated lever action repeating rifle fed from a 7 round Spencer Tube Magazine.

campsites for both British and American astronomical parties. The commissions travelled more than 600 miles west along the boundary line before finding themselves among the last of the great buffalo herds. They also encountered groups of Metis traders and the great summer hunting camps of the Metis, a sight that would be gone from the plains within a few short years. Within two years of serving under Marcus Reno and Miles Keough as escort to the boundary commissions, most of the 7th Cavalry troopers were killed at the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Each commission was also charged with the creation of a topographical survey along the entire 800 miles of the line. The survey varied in width from three to six miles on either side of the line and represented the first truly detailed and accurate portrait of the country. In addition, each commission had its own naturalist. For the United States, it was Army surgeon Captain Elliott Coues; for the British/Canadian commission it was geologist and naturalist George Dawson who was only in his mid-20s. Dawson's work with the commission resulted in the publication of a 400-page monograph which, for the first time, detailed the flora and fauna and natural resources of the new Canadian lands along the 49th Parallel.

Depots established by the Boundary Commission

1872-73	Distance from Base at Dufferin
North West Angle (Lake of the Woods)	174 miles
Pine River	64 miles
Pointe d'Orme	35 miles
Dufferin	_____
1873	
Pembina Mountain	43 miles
Long River	90 miles
Turtle Mountain	129 miles
1 st Souris Crossing (at North Antler Creek)	182 miles
2 nd Souris Crossing	230 miles
Wood End	279 miles
Coteau	321 miles
1874	
Wood Mountain	460 miles

	Distance from Main Depot at Wood Mountain
White Mud River (Frenchman's Creek)	69 miles
East Fork	154 miles
Milk River	199 miles
Three Buttes (Sweet Grass Hills)	268 miles
Rocky Mountain	360 miles



Point D'Orme Depot



Turtle Mountain Post and Depot



Blacksmith shop at the Wood End Depot.



Earth mound boundary marker.

William Peter Hallett, (1811-1873): Chief Scout and Leader of the “49th Rangers”

William Peter Hallett was born about 1811 at Fort Vermilion, Alberta, the son of Henry Hallett and Catherine Tenanse (the second of Henry Hallett's four mixed-blood wives). William was Henry's eighth child. Reverend David Jones baptized William Peter on October 18, 1824 after the Hallett family moved to the Red River Settlement and established themselves at Point Douglas.

William was a very interesting man whose various exploits were well documented in numerous histories of Western Canada. He was highly intelligent; a natural leader of men, and his prowess as a buffalo hunter was legend. He was an opponent of Riel during the 1869-1870 Red River Resistance and a leader of the “49th Rangers,” the Metis guards and scouts of the International Boundary Commission (1872-1873).

In 1872 the formal survey of the border between Canada and the United States began. Commissioner Donald R. Cameron chose William Hallett as Chief Scout to recruit a group to protect the British contingent from Sioux Indians or anyone else who might try to molest them. Captain Donald Campbell of the Royal Artillery had used Hallett as a guide when he accompanied the putative Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, William McDougall to Manitoba in 1869 in an abortive attempt to take over the settlement without negotiation with the residents.

The boundary Commission scouts provided their own horses and were provided with Spencer carbines. They were intended to act as guides, hunters and herdsmen. The budget was £4000 per year for the thirty men who were recruited. Hallett assigned Adam McDonald as deputy commander and Francois Gosselin, Guillaume Lafournaise and William Gaddy as sub-leaders. Hallett's nephew, William Pruden, was also a member of the Rangers. D'Arcy East took over with Crompton as deputy when Hallett died in the winter of 1873.

The newspapers of the day were quite supportive of the use of Metis interpreters and scouts:

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

We understand that the English Boundary Commission have been in communication with Mr. Wm. Hallett, of this place, in relation to the raising of a number of Half-Breeds to go across the plains with the expedition. Their services would, probably, be required as guides, interpreters and scouts. Before reaching the Pacific, and finally locating the International Boundary line to that point, it is surmised that from two to three years may elapse, and persons going with the Commissioners are to be engaged for some such lengthened period of service. A force of between one hundred and two hundred men accompanies the expedition, as all may not be plain sailing across the plains. The presence of such a force, well kept in hand, will no doubt have a good effect on the tribes through whom they may pass. But more potent still will be the presence of

men such as William Hallet, John Grant, George Flett, or some of the Leveilles, Delormes, or Gentons, who know every inch of the ground between this and the mountains, can converse with the Indians in their naïve Tongue, and are thoroughly conversant with their habits. Men like these we have named, and others we could name, will do more towards carrying such an expedition safely through, than all the troops that will accompany it; and for the sake of the speedy settlement of this boundary line dispute, we hope that an important point like the engagement of men familiar with Indian life and character, to navigate over the plains, will not be neglected.

Manitoban and Northwest Herald, January 18, 1873

The Boundary Survey

The English Boundary Commissioner, Capt. Cameron, has engaged some thirty English and French Half-Breeds to go with the Boundary Commission, which is expected to start on the 25th inst. These men will be on horseback and under the leadership of Mr. William Hallett, who will, we are sure, prove most efficient in anything he undertakes. The party are under engagement for five months, about which time the Commission will probably be seeking its winter quarters.

The Commission will, necessarily, travel very slow, not making, in all probability, more than about 300 miles during the season.

Manitoban and Northwest Herald, May 17, 1873

William's his first serious love (in 1834) was Sophia McDonell, the orphaned daughter of deceased Chief Factor Allan McDonell. However, her guardian, Alexander Christie, Governor of Assiniboia, didn't think William was good enough for her, because Hallett was of mixed-blood and a buffalo hunter. Christie gave her hand to the son of a Selkirk Settler, John Livingstone. This caused a furor in the Metis community, as it was another example of the HBC's arbitrary control over the residents of Rupert's Land.

William was first married "a la façon du pays" in 1835 to Suzette Lunes. She died in 1840 and he then married Maria Pruden in 1841, at St. Andrews Anglican Church at "the rapids" below Winnipeg. Maria was the daughter of chief factor John Peter Pruden and Nancy Pruden, born at Carlton House in 1813. The young couple lived in his father's household until 1844. When Henry Hallett died in 1844, William and Maria had two children. Since he no longer had to consider his father's wishes, he and his brother James began independent fur trading with the Indians, at the time, a practice which was outlawed by the HBC.

It is no exaggeration to say that William Hallett was a very prominent citizen of Red River. An article in the *Nor'Wester* newspaper on June 20, 1863 said:

...the veteran chieftain of a hundred battles... Mr. Hallett is one of the first men in this country; he is universally beloved and esteemed; he has extensive and powerful connections among all classes; of a mild and peaceful disposition himself, he has ever exerted himself to preserve peace and order in this country; as against the Indian tribes around us his very name is a tower of strength.

Hallett was one of the elected leaders of the Hunt. Alexander Ross in the *Red River Settlement* (p.246) describes Hallett's duties as one of the ten elected "Captains of the Hunt."

On leaving the river Chienne, Parisien,... Got into the dumps, and forked off to take a road of his own, contrary to the regulations of the camp, when Hallett, one of the captains, rode after him, and with a crack or two of his whip, turning his horses, brought them back to camp.

During the 1860s, William was still the elected leader of the English-speaking Half-Breed buffalo hunt out of the Red River.

William Hallett was in favour of bringing Red River into confederation, and on this, he and Riel clashed unreservedly. In July of 1869, William was signatory to a *Nor'Wester* advertisement calling for a meeting to deal with the Canadian intentions of annexing Rupert's Land. In 1869, he worked as a guide and interpreter for one of the John Dennis survey parties. He then helped Dennis, serving as a guide to evade the patrols of Riel's men between Fort Garry and Pembina. He was also hired to guide the "would be" Lieutenant Governor MacDougall when he was trying to cross the border into Manitoba to take up his duties at Red River. When the party was stopped at La Rivière Salle William was held in custody then released. He was finally arrested and jailed at Fort Garry on December 7, 1869. His only son John was also imprisoned at this time when he went as part of a delegation to negotiate with Riel. Riel released William on \$450 bail on February 12, 1870.

In 1872, when the border between Canada was being formally surveyed, it was decided that the survey party needed protection from the Sioux and anyone else who might try to molest them. Captain Cameron immediately chose William Hallett to command and recruit a troop of native Manitobans to form what became known as the "49th Rangers." In his final report, Commissioner Cameron penned a tribute to the memory of Chief Scout Hallett:

The Corps of mounted scouts was composed, with few exceptions, of Half-Breeds. They provided their own riding horses; they were furnished with camping equipage, blanket, robes, arms, and ammunition.

They were employed in reconnoitering, hunting, herding, maintaining connections with depots, carrying letters, and in communicating with Indians.

The scouts employed in 1873 were engaged and commanded by Mr. William Hallett (since dead), of whom it is right to say that very few could be named who have so great a claim upon their county's memory.

Distinguished by honest manliness, renowned for activity and great power of endurance, and noted from his youth as a most successful and daring hunter, and for his bravery when in contact with hostile Indians, he commanded the friendship and respect of all his brother Half-Breeds, and was latterly elected chief of the English speaking section.

William Hallett died of a gunshot wound to the stomach, by his own hand on December 27, 1873. William had undoubtedly lived with great pain as a result of his imprisonment in 1869-70. The irons used to bind his legs and arms in the unheated jail had frozen the flesh and resulted in a chronic and incurable streptococcus infection (erysipelas). Descendant Granny Good stated in her later years "His legs were raw with erysipelas. ...and Hallett wished he were dead the pain was so bad." James McKay of Deer Lodge was a staunch friend, colleague and supporter of William Hallett. When he heard of his death, he sat down and sobbed, "He was my Best Man." Maria Pruden Hallett died on December 24, 1883, three days short of the tenth anniversary of her husband's death.

The newspaper gave the following account of his death:

Suicide Sad End of an Old Resident

This morning, at about 10 o'clock Mr. William Hallett, of St. James Parish, came to his death at his own hands. We have not been able to gather the full particulars, but it appears the deceased had in some manner shot himself in the abdomen with a fowling piece. Mr. Hallett was in the neighborhood of sixty years of age, and was highly respected by a large circle of acquaintances. Of late some pecuniary losses seemed to weigh on his mind, and friends began to notice the fire of insanity in his eye, and there can be no doubt that his reason had departed ere he committed the rash act which hurried him before his maker.

Manitoba Free Press, December 27, 1873



49th Rangers, back row left to right: William Hallett, William Gaddie, Gabriel La Fournaise, Francois Gosselin and Donald McDonald.

Leaders and Sub-Leaders of the Scouts

Donald McDonald, (Deputy-Commander) (b. 1832)

Donald McDonald was born in November 1832, at St. Andrews, the son of Donald “Big” McDonald and Jane Beaudry. He married Harriet Spence sometime before 1852. His younger brother Adam was also a member of the Rangers.

William Gaddy, (Sub-Leader) (b. 1815)

William Gaddy was born in 1815, the son of James Gaddy and Mary, a Muddy River Peigan. He was a Scottish Half-Breed farmer from Portage la Prairie. He married Mary Marguerite Garrioch, the daughter of William Garrioch and Nancy Cook, in 1835. He opposed Riel and was captured as a spy in February of 1870. He was sentenced to execution but was allowed to escape. William served as a sub-leader under William Hallett in the 49th Rangers as part of the Boundary

Commission. William Gaddy was also imprisoned by Riel with the Portage men when they marched on Fort Garry in February of 1870. The family apparently moved to Saskatchewan. Mary Gaddy died circa. March 1901, in Kirkpatrick district, near Lindsay, Saskatchewan. His father was an employee of the Hudson's Bay Co.; his service record is shown below.

NAME: GADDY, James (Junior)		PARISH: St. Ola, Kirkwall ORKNEY	ENTERED SERVICE: ca. 1791	DATES: b. ca. 1774 d. 9 July 1833
Appointments & Service				
Outfit Year*	Position	Post	District	HBCA Reference
<i>*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May</i>				
1793-1794	Labourer		York Factory (Inland)	A.30/5, fos. 67d-68
1794-1800	Canoeman		York Factory (Inland)	A.30/7, fos. 30d-31; A.30/8, fos. 30d-31
1800-1804	Canoeman		York Factory (Inland)	A.30/6, fos. 26d-27; A.30/9, fos. 31d-32
1804, 23 Aug.	Home			A.16/34, fos. 73d-74; A.30/10, fos. 30d-31
1806, 26 June-1811	Labourer		York Factory (Inland)	A.16/34, fos. 73d-74
1811-1813	Assistant Trader		York Factory (Inland)	A.16/25
1813-1819	Assistant Trader		Churchill	A.16/26, fos. 36d-37; A.30/15, fos. 32d-33
1819-1823	Asst. Trader & Interpreter	Fort Hibernia		A.16/37, fos. 97d-98; A.30/16
1823-1828	retired to colony			A.16/42, fos. 69d-70
1828-1833	retired to colony			A.16/44, fos. 60d-61
1833, 9 July	drowned			A.16/44, fos. 60d-61.
Copies of will and administration in A.36 and A.44/2				
Executors: Alexander Lean and James Sutherland.				
Beneficiaries: Sister Catherine Dick				
Children: Isabella, James, John, William.				
Wife: Mary				
Data;				



PAM, Anglican Parish Registers
Genealogy...First Metis Nation

Filename: Gaddy, James Jr. (ca. 1774-1833) (fl. 1793-1823); (MGM/ek, July 1988; AM/am, April 1990)

Francois Gosselin, (Sub-Leader) (1817-1907)

Francois Gosselin was born in 1817, the son of Michel Gosselin and Marguerite Assiniboine Duroleaux. Francois would thus have spoken his mother's Nakota language. He married Suzanne Lafournaise, the daughter of Joseph Lafournaise and Suzanne LeClair dit Allard before 1842. His sister Marie was married to Joseph Charette. These were all families who lived at St. Norbert. His brother-in-law Pierre St. Germain⁷ was a member of the Rangers as was brother-in-law Gabriel Lafournaise. His son Guillaume and nephews William Lafournaise⁸ and William Charette⁹ also served with the 49th Rangers. Later, Ranger John Belanger would marry his daughter Marie Josephine.

Gabriel Lafournaise, (Sub-Leader) (1816-1910)

Gabriel was born c. 1816 at Red River, the son of Joseph Lafournaise *dit* Laboucan and Susanne Leclair. His mother was a Nakota Metisse so Gabriel would have spoken both the Assiniboine and Cree languages. His father was a voyageur for the NWC stationed at Fort des Prairies (Edmonton) until 1821. He then became a "freeman hunter for the HBC in the same area. They moved to Red River in 1831. At age seven Gabriel and his parents arrived at the mission of Red River and he was baptized by Mgr. Provencher. Three years later he became one of the first stu-

⁷ Married to his sister Genevieve.

⁸ Son of his sister Susanne Gosselin.

⁹ A nephew, son of his sister Marie Gosselin.

dents at Collège de Saint-Boniface. He married Susanne Collin, the daughter of Jean Baptiste Collin and Elizabeth Henry circa 1848, they had ten children. His sister Susanne Lafournaise was married to Francois Gosselin, a leader of the 49th Rangers.

Gabriel was a HBC employee and buffalo hunter. He took part in the battle “des la Rivière Outardes” (now Goose River). In 1869-70, he was approached by Louis Riel to become a member of the provisional government but turned this down. In 1872, they were living just south of St. Pierre Jolys on lot # 38. Ten years later they moved to Mosquito Creek just south of St. Malo. Their son William was also a member of the 49th Rangers.

The Scouts

George Atkinson, (b. 1847)

George Atkinson was born on Dec. 14, 1847 at St. James, the son of John Atkinson and Margaret Flett. Before 1875, he married Ellen McNab, the daughter of Charles McNab and Marie Anne McLeod.

John Belanger, (1853-1887)

John Belanger was born circa. March 1853, the son of Abraham Belanger and Marie Anne Versailles. Later he married Marie Josephine Gosselin (the daughter of Ranger leader Francois Gosselin) on Nov. 9, 1875 at St. Norbert. By 1880 they were living at Batoche. His sister Marie Belanger was married to Anathase Lepine, also a member of the 49th Rangers.

John Belanger died between 1887-88 at Batoche. He is believed to have assisted his father and brothers during the 1885 Resistance. His father Abraham Sr. was a buffalo hunter who lived at Pembina and St. Norbert before moving to Batoche. Abraham Belanger Sr. was present at the March 24, 1884 secret planning meeting for bringing Louis Riel to Batoche and was a Captain of one of the 19 companies led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. He is shown on Philippe Garnot's list as #185.

Robert Duncan Campbell, (b. 1842).

Robert Duncan Campbell was born in 1842 at Fort Chipewyan, the son of Collin Campbell and Elizabeth McGillivray. He married Francis Jane Thomas, the daughter of William Thomas and Eleanor Bunn on Aug. 3, 1865 at St. John's. They had six children. His father was a chief trader for the HBC in the Athabasca district where Robert was born. His father's service record appears below.

William married Sarah Perreault Jan. 22, 1881 at St. Norbert and they had two children. Their son Guillaume Charette (1884-1952) served as President of the Union National Mettisse St. Joseph for many years and was instrumental in leading the society in helping to change the way of thinking of the Manitoba population towards Metis people.

Joseph Galarneau (Gallineau), (b. 1850)

Joseph Galarneau was born on Oct. 10, 1850 at Springfield, the son of Joseph Galarneau Sr. and Marguerite Archambault. He married Octavie Lacerte, daughter of Louis Lacerte and Joseph Vandal on Feb. 3, 1880 at St. Norbert. His wife's father, Louis Lacerte was a delegate to the Convention of Forty during the 1869-1870 Resistance and represented Pointe Coupée at the Convention. Joseph later married Odille Veilleux on Feb. 16, 1886 at St. Norbert.

Guillaume (William) Gosselin, (b. 1854)

Guillaume Gosselin was born in September 1854 at St. Norbert the son of Francois Gosselin and Susanne Lafournaise. His father was a leader of the 49th Rangers and his sister Marie was married to Joseph Charette another member of the Rangers. His cousins William Lafournaise and William Charette were also members of the 49th Rangers. Alexander Morris interviewed Gosselin on May 28, 1874 and was told that the Metis scouts who were with the 1873 party did not want to work for the Boundary Commission in 1874 because they feared trouble from the Lakotas. "They are very hostile to the Americans and do not understand the object of the survey."¹⁰

Leonide Goulet (b. 1852)

Leonide Goulet was born on Jan. 3, 1852 at St. Boniface, the son of Alexis Goulet and Joseph Severight. He was the nephew of Moise Goulet who was also in the 49th Rangers. Leonide married Marguerite McDougall on September 12, 1861 at St. Francois Xavier. She was the daughter of Duncan McDougall and Marguerite McDonald.

Moise (Moyse) Goulet, (b. 1831)

Moise Goulet was born in 1831 at St. Norbert. He was the son of Jacques Goulet and Genevieve Begnet (Severight). He married Marie Beauchamp, the daughter of Pierre Beauchamp and Marie Comtois dit Morin, before 1856. They had ten children. Moise Goulet was a wealthy Metis trader and by the late 1860s was earning upwards of \$1,000 per year in the buffalo robe trade. He had an extensive operation and had hired a number of Metis to work tanning hides for him.

His former house, the "Maison Goulet" is a historic site near Joubert Creek in St. Pierre-Jolys, which is featured on the metre certificate of the Crow Wing Trail, honouring Moise Goulet, a freighter on the Crow Wing Trail for the Hudson's Bay Company, in 1870. This log house, built by Moise Goulet himself was typical of French homes in the Red River Valley at that time. The house features a double-pitched mansard roof and has been refaced with vertical board and batten siding common to early French Manitoba buildings.

¹⁰ Morris to Dorion, Fort Garry, 29 May, 1874, PAM, MG12 B2, no. 116 reel M141.



Alexis and Leonide Goulet (seated), photo from SBHS (CMSB 1205B)

William Hallett, Jr. (b. 1846)

William Hallett was born on July 26, 1846 at St. John's, the son of Antoine or Edwin Hallett (b. 1823) and Jane Spence. He was baptized at St. John's Anglican Church August 3, 1846. The family was then living at Poplar Point. Before 1871 he married Mary Anne Slater (b. April 9, 1854) the daughter of William Slater and Maria Rowland. They too lived at Poplar Point, William was granted Metis scrip land there on March 24, 1877, he received SW6, 9, 6W and S1/2 NW6, 9, 6W. As a freighter, he moved around a lot and the family initially stayed with his mother-in-law at Poplar Point when they were not traveling. Later he moved to the Qu'Appelle Valley in Saskatchewan. William Jr. was the great-nephew of 49th Rangers leader William Hallett Sr. who was the brother of Henry Hallett, William Jr's. grandfather.

Alexandre Isbister, (b. 1852)

Alexandre Isbister was born on July 27, 1852, the son of John Isbister and Fanny Sinclair. He married Emily Saunders, daughter of Palm Saunders and Jane Forbes on Sept. 20, 1876 at St. Paul, where they then resided. His father was a HBC employee at Oxford House and Norway House who left for Red River in 1859. His service record is shown below.

NAME: ISBISTER, John (A) (ISBESTER)		PARISH: Harray, Orkneys	ENTERED SERVICE: 28 May 1817 (A.32/34, fo. 96)	DATES: b. 1796 d. post-1883
Appointments & Service				
Outfit Year*	Position	Post	District	HBCA Reference
<i>*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May</i>				
1817, 14 June-20 Aug.	travelled Orkney to Moose River on the <i>Eddystone</i>			C.1/306, fo. 3
1817 - 1821	Labourer			A.30/16, fo. 16
1821 - 1825	Labourer		Cumberland	B.239/g/1-4
1825 - 1828	Fisherman		Cumberland	B.239/g/5-7
1828 - 1832	Fisherman	Oxford House	Island Lake	B.239/g/8-11; B.156/a/10, fo. 28d
1832 - 1836	Interpreter	Oxford House	Nelson River	B.239/g/12-15
1836 - 1837	Postmaster in charge	Nelson River	Jack River	B.239/g/16; B.239/k/2, p. 135
1837 - 1859 [†]	Interpreter & Postmaster	Nelson River	Norway House	B.239/g/17-38; B.239/k/2, pp. 161, 183, 204, 226, 255, 278, 329, 358, 388, 408, 431, 462, 484; B.239/k/3, pp. 12, 36, 56, 81, 108, 130, 150, 171; B.154/b/1, 5-8; B.195/z/1, fo. 1
1859	freeman		Red River Settlement	B.239/g/39
1883, 31 August	age listed as 88 years, 9 months			B.235/c/2a
Wife: Frances ("Fanny") Sinclair (b. ca. 1813; baptised and married 17 July 1842) "...reputed half sister of James Sinclair of Red River and sister to Ben Sinclair..." Her father's name is listed as being Essessepow [sic] in 1870 Red River Census				S.F. "Isbister, John (fl. 1817-1859)"; D.5/14, fos. 229-230d AM. MG2 B3-9, page 124, item 743
Children: Betsy (b. 7 Feb. 1831, bapt. 17 July 1842) John (b. 5 Oct. 1832, bapt. 17 July 1842) James (b. 30 Nov. 1833, bapt. 17 July 1842) William (b. 8 Jan. 1835; bapt. 17 July 1942), m. Mary Anne Begg (d. Charles Begg) David (b. 28 Nov. 1837, bapt. 17 July 1842) Adam (b. 26 Oct. 1839, bapt. 17 July 1842) Fanny (b. 4 Jan. 1842, bapt. 17 July 1842) Mary (b. 31 Jan. 1844, bapt. 18 Aug. 1844) Robert Miles (b. ca. 1848, bapt. 4 June 1850) Ellen (b. ca. Jan. 1850, bapt. 4 June 1850) Alexander (b. 27 July 1852, bapt. 31 July 1853) George Barnston (b. 27 Jan. 1855, bapt. 6 July 1856) Benjamin (b. 20 Oct. 1857, bapt. 19 July 1859)				S.F. "Isbister, John (fl. 1817-1859)" S.F. "Isbister, John (fl. 1817-1859)"

Filename: Isbister, John (A) (1796-post 1883) (fl. 1817-1859) Feb./85 MGM/wg Revised: April 1989, JHB/ek; March 2006, DJ



Albert Kennedy, (1854-1922)

Albert Kennedy was born on Aug. 11, 1854 at St. Andrews, the son of Philip Kennedy and Elizabeth "Jessie" McKenzie. On Jan. 3, 1882 at St. Andrew's. He married Catherine "Kate" Johnston the daughter of William Johnston and Catherine on January 3, 1882 at St. Andrews.. They had 10 children.

William Lafournaise, (b. 1853)

William Lafournaise was born on October 24, 1853 at Lac Qu'Appelle, the son of Gabriel Lafournaise and Susanne Collin. In 1880, at Oak Lake, he married Isabelle Davis, the daughter of Jean Baptiste Davis and Julie Desnomme. William was the nephew of leader Francois Gosselin who was married to his father's sister Susanne.

Romain Lagemoniere (Lagimodière) Jr. (b. 1853)

Romain Lagimoniere was born c. 1853 the son of Romain Lagimoniere Sr. and Marie Vaudry. He married Julie McNabb. His father, Louis Riel's uncle, was a pall-bearer at Louis Riel's funeral on Dec. 12, 1885.

Charles Lambert, (b. 1846)

Charles Lambert was born Dec. 12, 1846 at St. Vital, the son of Antoine Lambert and Isabelle Houle. He married Marie Larance in 1870 at St. Norbert. Marie was the daughter of Norbert Larance and Josephte Parenteau. Her father, Norbert Larance was a St. Norbert delegate to the Convention of Forty in 1870. Charles and Marie had five children.

Antoine Lepine, (1850)

Athanse Lepine was born on Feb. 2, 1850 at St. Boniface, son of Jean Baptiste Lepine and Isabelle Parenteau. His uncles were Maxime Lepine and Ambroise Dydime Lepine. He married Marie Belanger July 5, 1870 at St. Norbert. Marie was the daughter of Abraham Belanger and Marie Anne Versailles. Her brother John Belanger was a member of the 49th Rangers. They had six children and later moved to Batoche. During the 1885 Resistance he was a member of Captain Isidore Dumont's militia company during the 1885 Metis Resistance. Two of his wife's brothers were also Resistance fighters in 1885 and her father Abraham was a Captain in Dumont's militia as was his uncle Maxime Lepine.

Adam Mcdonald, (b. 1835)

Adam McDonald was born Jan. 10, 1835 at St. Andrew's, the son of Donald "Big" Mcdonald and Jane Beaudry. He married Maria McKay, the daughter of William McKay and Mary Bunn on Jan., 1863 at St. Andrews. They had five children. His older brother Donald was the Deputy Commander of the 49th Rangers.

Edward McKay, (b. 1847)

Edward Richard McKay was born on Nov. 14, 1847, the son of John McKay and Mary England. He married Caroline Voller the daughter of James Voller and Nancy Birston on Dec. 26, 1867 at St. Andrew's. He died April 8, 1927. They had eleven children. He is the brother-in-law of Robert Taylor another member of the 49th Rangers. He was an HBC employee from 1866 to 1870; his service record is shown below.

NAME: McKAY, Edward		PARISH: Native	ENTERED SERVICE: 1866	DATES:
Appointments & Service Outfit Year*:	Position:	Post:	District:	HBCA Reference:
<small>*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May</small>				
1866-1868	Clerk	Pembina [1867]	Red River	B.239/u/2 p. 399; B.239/g/108;
1868-1869	Freeman		Red River	B.239/k/3 p. 358
1869-1870	Does not appear			B.239/g/109 B.239/g/110

According to the Northern Department Servants Engagement Register, Edward McKay made a contractual arrangement with the Company at Fort Garry on August 28, 1866 (a 3 year contract). No contract survives in the HBCA. (source: B.239/u/2 p. 399; A.32/40)



Pascal Parisien, (1830)

Pascal Parisien was born April 12, 1830 at St. Norbert, the son of Augustin Parisien and Therese Ducharme. He married Catherine Courchene before 1857. They lived in St. Norbert. They had six children. Pascal was imprisoned by Riel along with William Hallett during the 1869-1870 Resistance.

William Pruden, (1832)

William Albert Pruden was baptized on Oct. 31, 1832 (St. John's), son of William Pruden (c. 1804) and Nancy Ogden, married Maria Fidler then Matilda Gunn. His aunt, Marie Pruden, was married to the leader of the 49th Rangers, William Hallett. William Albert died Sept. 25, 1890 at St. Andrews. His son by Marie Fidler was also William Pruden born Jan. 3, 1855 at St. Andrews and married to Margaret Johnston. The commission came across the remains of a long-abandoned village and some gravesites along the banks of South Antler Creek, between the Souris River crossings which Pruden explained was where the Mandans once lived. Hallett agreed with this assessment based upon remnant villages he had observed along the Missouri River.¹¹

James Ross, (1853)

James Ross was born 1853 at St. Andrews, the son of Catherine Berland and George Ross. He died October 6, 1879 at St. Andrew's.

Charles St Arnaud (St Ammand), (1840)

Charles St. Arnaud dit Tourond was born on Jan. 25, 1840, the son of Bonaventure St. Arnaud dit Tourond and Genevieve Contre. He married Genevieve Rainville on Jan. 29, 1861 at Pembina. They had thirteen children.

Pierre St Germain, (1830)

Pierre St. Germain was born in 1830 at St. Norbert, the son of Joseph Brissard dit St. Germain and Marie Cadotte. He married Genevieve Gosselin, the daughter of Michel Gosselin and

¹¹ Tony Rees, 2007: 192.

Marguerite Assiniboine Duroleaux, before 1852. His brother-in-law Francois Gosselin was a leader of the Rangers. They had seven children and lived in St. Norbert.

Jeremiah Slater, (1842)

Jeremiah Slater was baptized on April 29, 1842 at St. John's. The son of John Slater and Elizabeth Dennet, daughter of William Dennet and Sophia Ballendine. He and Maria Linklater had a child, Margaret, born May 24, 1862, but they never married. His brother Samuel Slater also served in the 49th Rangers.

Samuel Slater, (1844-1904)

Samuel Slater was born on Mar. 11, 1844 at St. Andrew's, the son of John Slater and Elizabeth Dennet, daughter of William Dennet and Sophia Ballendine. On Jan. 11, 1877 at St. Paul, he married Sophie Ann Knight the daughter of James Knight and Elizabeth Haywood. Samuel was a farmer, his father John, was a Scotsman and his mother, Elizabeth Dennet was a Metisse. His brother Jeremiah Slater also served in the 49th Rangers. Samuel died on February 24, 1904 and is buried at St. Andrew's Anglican Church

Robert Taylor, (1836-1919)

Robert Alexander Taylor was born in 1836 at Fort of the Rockies and baptized at St. John's on March 9, 1836, the son of George Taylor II and Jane Bruce or Prince. Robert married Eliza Voller the daughter of James Voller and Nancy Birston. He died March 26, 1919. He is the brother-in-law of Edward McKay another member of the 49th Rangers. His father was a surveyor for the Hudson's Bay Co.; his service record is shown below.

NAME: TAYLOR, George Jr. (Surveyor)		PARISH: Native of Hudson Bay	ENTERED SERVICE: 1819	DATES: b. ca. 1798; d. 15 Nov. 1844; (A.16/48, fo. 142)
Outfit Year*	Position	Post	District	HBCA Reference
*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May				
1819-1820	Clerk	York Factory		A.16/39, p. 456
1820-1821	Clerk	Churchill		A.16/39, p. 456
1821-1823	Sloop master	Severn		A.34/1, p. 48; A.16/41, p. 465
1823-1824	Clerk, sloop master		York Factory	B.239/k/1, p. 58; A.34/1, p. 48
1824-1826	Clerk		York Factory	B.239/k/1, p. 92; A.34/1, p. 48
1826-1827	Clerk & sloop master	York Factory	York Factory & Churchill	B.239/k/1, p. 176; A.34/2, fo. 49d
1827-1828	Sloop master	Fort Garry	Red River	B.239/k/1, p. 210; B.235/a/10-11
1828-1829	Clerk [appointed but did not reach there]		Columbia	B.239/k/1, p. 250
1829-1830	Clerk	Oxford House	Island Lake	B.239/k/1, p. 268
1830-1832	Clerk	York Factory	York Factory	B.239/k/1, p. 291, 315
1832-1834	Master	Lake Winnipeg Vessels		B.239/g/12-13
1834-1835	Clerk	disposable	Red River	B.239/g/14
1835-1836	Clerk	disposable		B.239/g/15
1836-1837	Surveyor	Fort Garry	Red River	B.239/k/2, p. 133
1837-1838	Clerk		Red River	B.239/g/17; D.4/23, fo. 162-162d
1838-1844	Surveyor		Red River	D.4/23, fo. 162-162d
1844, 15 Nov.	died			A.16/48, fo. 142; B.239/k/2, p. 180, 201, 223, 253, 275, 325
Maps: "Sketch of the Route Between York Factory and Red River Settlement...Fall 1827"				B.235/a/10
"Plan of Red River Colony...1836, 7 & 8"				E.6/14; G.1/59
"Winter Road from Foxes River to Oxford Ho. 1833"				G.1/61
Wife: Jane Prince, a native of Albany, m. 11 January 1828				E.4/1, p. 222
Children: Mary, b. 12 Oct. 1828 (B.235/a/11, fo. 64); Jane, George, bapt. 2 Aug. 1833; Victoria, bapt. 11 Dec. 1834; Robert Alexander, bapt. 9 Mar. 1836; Sarah, bapt. 8 July 1838; Edward b. ca. 1840				
Search file: "TAYLOR GEORGE"				



Taylor, George Jr. (1798-1844) (fl.1819-1844) JHB/ek April 1988 reformatted 11/99 CAW

Edward Taylor, (b. 1841)

Edward Prince Taylor was baptized on Feb. 1, 1841 at St. John's, the son of George Taylor II and Jane Bruce or Prince and younger brother to Robert Taylor. He married Mary Sabiston on June 23, 1862 at St. Andrew's and later married Sarah Stevens on June 15, 1871 at St. Andrew's. He had three children with Mary and 11 with Sarah.

Scouts Paylist, 1873:

*Schedule of Accounts paid Force of Scouts to by
W. Hallett for H. M. Boundary Commission.
Winnipeg 23rd May 1873.*

William Hallett	\$1.45
Pascal Parisien	60
Charles St Amant	60
Charles Lambert	60
William Charatti	60
William Gonselin	60
Antoine Lepine	60
John Belandier	60
Marcus Goulet	60
Joseph Gallinier	60
Leonet Goulet	60
Pierre St Germain	60
Kornain Legemoreau	60
Alexander Sebriner	60
Jozephiah Slafes	60
Robert Taylor	60
Edward Taylor	45
James Ross	45
Edward McKay	60
R. D. Campbell	75
Adam McDonald	50
Albert Kennedy	50
Samuel Slafes	50
William Puden	95
William La Fontaine	50
William Hallett Jr.	45
George Atkinson	45
Under Francis Gonselin	85
Leader Gabriel La Fontaine	60
Ed. de William Gonselin	60
Dep. Com. Donald McDonald	110
	<u>\$2000</u>



Camp and Red River Carts west of Turtle Mountain

Boundary Commission's Communications

In the early stages of organizing the survey of the boundary, many communications were dispatched around the country. Rumours were plentiful about possible trouble from the Dakotas and other tribes along the intending border areas. In a letter written June of 1872, Cameron suggested a group of armed men protect the North American Boundary Commission, "working parties might be called upon to protect themselves from lawless Indians".

In a letter from Captain Cameron and Lt. Gov. Archibald dated 24 Sept. 1872, he suggests a body of mounted half-breeds as a covering escort ... "a corps of half-breed hunters accustomed to the climate and familiar with Indian habits".

Archibald's reply to Capt. Cameron was very supportive, praising the ability of the Metis men. "An escort of half-breeds accustomed to the life of the prairies and up to all the ruses of savage warfare, would be better than the best soldiers."

These quotes were in a letter dated Oct. 8, 1872, from A.L. Russell to Capt. Ward;

A French half-breed from Pembina named Jose Jerome just arrived from Roseau Lake. He is willing to guide out at \$4.00 per Diem. The cart had a load of 700 pounds. Mr. Jerome reports Roseau Lake and Roseau River unusually high owing to a heavy fall of snow.”

In May of 1873, there are four letters that were exchanged between Capt. Cameron and William Hallett. In the first one, Cameron is offering Hallett a position of authority.

Her Majesty's government having authorized me to raise a corps of the nations population to whom shall be assigned the duty of guiding and guarding Her Majesty's Boundary Commission parties on their way westward from Pembina to the Rocky Mountains, it would afford me much satisfaction to be able to report to the government that you have accepted the post of Commander of the corps.”

The second missive was from Hallett to Cameron, accepting the offer of Commander of the corps.

“ I am in receipt of your communication of today desiring me to take charge of a body of mounted and armed men to guide and guard Her Majesty's Boundary Commission on their way westward from Pembina to the Rocky Mountains. In reply I say that – I accept the proposition which you make.”

Cameron was quick to reply, because on the same day he sent of another reply to Hallett.

“ Upon your accepting the Command of the corps and undertaking the responsibility of raising it. I propose to give you a salary at the rate of four dollars a day under authorization given to me by Her Majesty's government.”

Cameron quickly sent his last missive that day, outlining the pay scale of men that were to make up what would later be dubbed the 49th Rangers.

With reference to my letter today and your reply accepting the command of a corps of guides and guards for the Boundary Commission. I have to state that it is desired to have a force of thirty armed and mounted men such as your promise will enable you to select for their service on the plains.

The rates of pay to be allowed are as follows :-

one deputy commander - \$2.50 a day
three leaders - \$2.00 a day
twenty-six rangers - \$1.50 a day

In case of any of the party losing their horses, otherwise than by neglect, will be made good to the owner. Crew tents when necessary will be provided by the government.

The next letter is most interesting, as Cameron now asks the Secretary of State in Ottawa to apply for arms and ammunition to provide to the men of the Boundary Commission. Spencer carbines of time are the premier rifle on the plains. They are a seven shot, lever action, repeating rifle. A true state-of-the-art weapon in its time.

Please apply for fifty Spencer carbines and eight thousand rounds of ammunition to be sent without delay on the same terms as last issue. Written application follows.

Later in Featherstone's requisition for supplies, he requests 60 Spencer carbines and 7000 rounds of ammunition. This works out to about 116 rounds per rifle. He increases the number of rifles by 10 and reduces the ammunition by a 1000.

In late May 1873, Cameron sends a telegram from Fort Dufferin to William Hallett, in care of Dr. Schultz. "Why you men not here – When will they arrive." Its curious that Cameron would send the telegram in care of Schultz.

Cameron is quick to respond to an enquiry concerning employment. He sends a telegram to Stewart Mulvey in Winnipeg, being very brief. "No more men required, our numbers full." Note that Stewart Mulvey, a member of the Orange Order had requested employment for himself and a number of men. Cameron was no doubt aware of Mulvey's notoriety as a trouble-maker and the antipathy between the Metis and Orangemen dating back to 1869-70 at Red River.

Captain Ward must have found humour when writing this next letter to Cameron. This letter dated 31 Oct. 1873.

Commander Hallett informs me today that three scouts, Charles St Arnaud, Pierre St Germain and Belanger had lost their horses. The scouts told me they missed their horses at the Souris Depot on the 8th last. Found their hacks the same day and searched for them until the 10th last when they came across Sioux tracks with those of the horses. They suppose they were taken towards Moose Mountain. Commander Hallett wished to know whether compensation would be allowed them and I told it would referred to you for decision.

Edwin Bourke, the son-in-law of William Hallett must have found this letter, dated 11 December 1873, a few days before Hallett's death, difficult to write. In his letter to Capt. Ward, he outlines that Hallett is seriously ill and incapable to conduct business.

I write to you on behalf of my father-in-law, Mr. William Hallett who is now seriously ill and entirely incapable of attention to any business. In regard to your kind enquiry as to the post money, I have to say that I am out say some \$355 (having recovered a portion from the men who had been overpaid.). May I ask you is there any possibility that relief could be extended to him under the circumstances.

With the death of William Hallett on December 27, 1873, Cameron appointed Darcy East as Commander of the scouts, with George Crompton as East's second in command. Cameron must have felt uneasy about this arrangement somehow, because he wrote a very extensive memo regarding the duties and responsibilities of the Scout Commander. The memo was written 2 May 1874 and directed to the new Commander.

Memo for officer commanding the Scouts.

- It will be the duty of the two scouts attached to the provision train – upon their main body advancing with the depot party – to keep up a connection between the road making party

and the provision team when circumstances render it advisable that these should be camped at different place.

- Should it become apparent after leaving Wood End depot that the Traders road to Wood Mountain in settlement is inferior to the route followed by the expedition in 1873 for passage of heavy freight – information to this effect will be sent back at least as far as Wood End depot with such instructions as may ensure all trains following the preferable route.
- Distance is not a point to be considered in deciding which may be the preferable road – water supply facility for wheel carriage and grazing are chiefly to be considered.
- On arriving in the neighbourhood of Wood Mountain the officer in charge of the scouts will explore the country westward for a commission route and the establishment of a depot.
- In carrying out this duty he will use every endeavour to mark out the line which offers the least difficulty to freighted draught animals while affording reasonable facility for communication with the line along which the astronomical and surveying operations must proceed.

-: In selecting a site for a depot he will keep in view the following points;

- (a) The depot must be upon the main commission route.
- (b) It should be as nearly 475 miles west from Red River as possible.
- (c) The neighbourhood should afford a good water supply, abundant grazing and timber both for fuel and for the construction of stores.
- (d) It should be within 6 miles of the boundary line.
- (e) Its situation should be such that laden wagons may pass easily on to and away from the camping ground.
- (f) It should have at least 200 yards of clear ground beyond the outer-edge of the camp site and present no facilities for the concealment of Indians or others approaching it while being itself concealed.
- (g) Care will be observed not leaving unmistakable direction at all forked trails and crossings.
- (h) Such Indians and half-breeds are likely to prove useful as guides, interpreters and scouts met with on the western plains and willing to engage should be hired by the officer commanding the scouts in the following proportions - guides & interpreters 10, scouts 20. As to pay these men will be placed upon the same footing as those going out from Dufferin.
- (i) The scouts will afford every practicable assistance to the depot party.

Addendum to Memo

- The Commander of the scouts will consider it his special duty to maintain friendly relations with the Indians along the route to be followed by the Boundary Expedition.
- To collect information as to their numbers, disposition and movements.
- To give timely warning of their presence and bearing.
- The efficient discharge of his office will necessitate the constant and achieve employment of all the men at the Commanders disposal and it is therefore desired that except under unavoidable circumstances they may not be called upon to perform duties which interfere with their work as scouts.

- The commander will take every opportunity presented for collecting topographical information – recording in a journal the instructions and employment of his men, the reports they make and all incidents which may be of immediate interest to the government.
- In communication with the Commissary – he will regulate the provisioning of his party and the distribution of ammunition so that at all times his men may be prepared for the performance of duty either collectively or singly.

George M. Dawson: Excerpts from Diary and Notebook for 1874

June 25, 1874. Got things packed up & after considerable delay arising from Commissariat carts etc. also going south got off about 10 o'clock. Came North on so called South road from Woody Mountain about 7 miles to a large wooded coulée where remains of several shanties occupied last winter. Halted for lunch. Capt. Anderson who had stayed behind to arrange various matters here caught up. Thunder storm with heavy rain between 2 & 3 o'clock. Off again & travelled till late. The road kept disappearing on the hills & gave much trouble. At length struck into a well marked trail & reached the wooded creek. Camped having come in all about 201-2 miles. Say deduct about 1-2 for detours made. Told that all Half Breeds of this region now at "big camp" which situated northward of Cypress Hills. Engaged in hunting buffalo. They club together for protection & as it were a tribe of themselves. As many as 100 to 200 families congregated there now.

To the depot at the east branch of the Milk River

July 8, 1874. Heard that two old carts remained near the Half-Breed houses, which they probably thought too poor to take on. Thought however that they may be better than nothing. Examined them & took the best. An old stager, mended up with poplar, the axle & much of the wheels being of that wood. Also scientifically bound with shaganappi in many places. Occupied some time getting it put in a little better repair & arranging other little matters. Left two boxes specimens addressed to Dufferin, but if no chance in that direction offered, & depot moved west, must not be abandoned but brought along with it.

Red River Country carts are little use in this part of the country to anybody but the Half-Breeds. When broken there is no hard wood to repair them & from the stony & rough character of the "roads" breaks are necessarily frequent. The sand & grit also rapidly wears away the axles unless iron bushes are used & then a poplar axle has to be substituted at risk of breakdown any moment. The extreme dryness of the air causes them to split & crack in all directions, especially the hubs, & when this happens the spokes work loose & nothing will save the wheel. By keeping the wheel always wet this may be avoided but water is scarce. With the half-breeds time is no object & cheapness is everything. They put on light loads & travel in large trains so that if one cart breaks down the load may be distributed & the fragments retained for future repairs.

July 11, 1874. Campbell brought in a copy of Crompton's 2nd reconnaissance showing route to next depot. Reports that he saw thousands of buffalo a days march W. of here. Also Indians. The latter it appears are trying to head off the buffalo which are moving Northwards, & drive them down towards their hunting grounds on the Missouri. The Indians are Sioux. A large party of them it seems came down on Ashe's party, who were obliged to give them flour, matches, &c. to some considerable amount. They might have "gone through" them to a still greater extent but for the timely appearance of Campbell's train.

July 13, 1874. (500 miles from Dufferin and west of White Mud River Depot) For 7 1/2 miles from last night's camp the road passes over the gently undulating prairie, which however becomes more markedly undulating westward & then terminates against the foot of an area of elevated & coteau like country. The latter which extends as far as we have yet gone consists of abruptly undulating hills often stony & with many small slews & swamps now mostly dry. Great numbers of buffalo recently killed strew the country & in some places still pollute the air. Half-Breed & Indian camping places are also frequently seen. Marked by circle of lodges. Bare places & heaps of ashes where fires have been. Also heaps of broken bones reduced to about the size of road metal which have been boiled to remove the fat for pemmican making. Piles of buffalo chips are also frequent. It is quite abundant & makes a good fire, especially with a little wood to start it. We depend entirely on it our cooking being now nearly 100 miles West of wood.

July 14, 1874. Set out on buckboard to rejoin train now far ahead. Soon met Spence, one of Capt. Featherstone's scouts with a cart coming back from the East Fork Depot with supplies. He said he had seen 3 Indians close at hand who had ran after him but had not done him any harm. Drove on & soon saw two horsemen at a distance. On catching sight of us they set off at full gallup in a direction to intercept us & soon became concealed behind the hills. Thought it best to put rifles in conspicuous place that they might see we were armed. They came on the road just as we caught sight of the train & turned out to be two wild looking Half-Breeds with rifles slung over their backs. They asked about Valette (Ouelette) of Woody Mt. Gave them all the information I could.

About the 534 m. point came suddenly to the Western edge of the patch of coteau like country. Saw the Three Buttes distinctly though must be 100 miles distant. Also the Little Rocky Mts. subtending a large angle to S.W. They are about 60 miles distant & look very ridgey & rough.

Met Grant, another of Capt. Featherstone's men who had been to depot returning with two or three things packed on his horses back. His cart having broken down. Soon after saw an Indian on horseback, he approached but with great caution & when not repulsed, followed us to camp. Watched operation of camping with great interest. Stayed long enough to have something to eat & then went away. His pony had a very sore back. The Indian a very young fellow who said he was a Dacotah [Sioux].

July 15, 1874 (reach the depot on east branch of Milk River). Started at 6,30. Travelled West over the same wide flat plain covered only with cactus & sage bush & a little dry grass. Road hard as iron the ground being composed of hard sandy clay & fissured in all directions. The level of the country rises somewhat on approaching the West Fork but without improving in character.

The East Fork of the Milk River [now named Battle River to commemorate the Cypress Hills Massacre] on which the Depot is situated flows in a valley with nearly precipitous banks but not more than 50 feet below the plain.

July 18, 1874. Travelled 22 m. & then reached Galway's camp near two moderately large lakes, around which splendid feed & the first really good hay grass seen. The camp is on the Southern lake. Found Ashe over on a visit, his camp being about a mile distant on the Northern lake. Arranged to meet him in the morning when he starts W. for Milk R. Camped.

The "Big Camp" of Half-Breeds about a half a mile from our camp & on the same lake. Visited it in the evening. Must have been at least 200 teepés [sic] most of skin but some of canvas. A great many carts. The carts arranged in a great circle enclosing a place for the secure keeping of the horses & into which they are all driven at night. The camps arranged around the outer edge of the

circle. Each family with its own tent or group of tents. & camp fire. Being Sunday all in best clothes & no work of any sort going on. They have a priest in the party who holds service on Sunday & no doubt conducts all marriage ceremonies &c. He also teaches the children to read & write &c. & helps to settle any points in dispute. Told that part of the camp now separate & hunting on other grounds so that not as many as usual. The Half-Breeds say that they have about 2000 horses & ponies & it certainly appears not improbable.

They speak French [sic] & some of them Indian. Most understand a little English & all were anxious to know about Red R. troubles &c.

They spend the summers hunting on the plains. Making pemmican during the summer & collecting robes when they are prime in the autumn. They are mostly well armed with repeating & breach loading rifles. In the winter they resort to Woody Mt & such places where there is timber & they have shanties built. Most of them winter on the White Mud R. S. of Fort N.J. Turney & consequently well into U.S. territory, & take goods out via the Missouri. They guard their camp with great care having two or three lines of scouts out. The Indians naturally do not like the Half-Breeds to come out hunting like a separate tribe, though they do not object to trading. They have just held a council & decided to go N. to the Cypress Hills, scouts having reported plenty buffalo in that direction. They have not come from the hills more than a week or two & were then engaged in an Indian fight. They took sides with the Sioux against the Blackfeet & drove the latter of killing 8 or 9 of them.

It would appear however that the Sioux did the hardest part of the fighting.

About 6m East of our camp we found the trail of their cart train & were at a loss to account for the fact that instead of following in our road & making a well beaten track for at least some of the carts; they had made 10 or 12 parallel within the distance of a few hundred yards. Learnt however that this a precaution against Indian attack. So many hundred carts would offer but a weak line, but travelling abreast if surprised they can draw up in a solid phalanx & put the women & children in the centre in comparative safety. Capt. A. wishing to get some interpreters & men who knew the country let it be known in the camp soon had some applicants but all very independent & with the idea of high pay. Only one man thoroughly understood the Blackfoot language & he was finally engaged at the exorbitant rate of \$5.00 a day others as guides at less sums.

They value the commonest ponies at \$40 to \$60 & for Coureurs or buffalo runners all sorts of fancy prices are asked up to \$150 & \$200.

The hills or rather mountains, called on the map the Three Buttes are universally known to the Half-Breeds even on the Missouri as the Sweet-grass Hills or Montagnes de l'herbe Santé.

July 18, 1874. During this mornings march passed where the half-breeds had been running buffalo a few days before. The hillsides & valleys strewn with carcasses. Those in best condition had been completely stripped, while the poorer ones & old bulls had had only the tit bits removed.

The valley of the Milk R. is exceedingly curious & picturesque. The banks of the gorge are at least 150 feet high where the line crosses & the flat bottom between them about half a mile wide. The banks are almost entirely bare of vegetation & cut up by lateral coules & ravines down which one may pass on horseback by following the buffalo tracks.

July 24, 1874. (Sweet Grass Hills) The Buttes appear very large on approach & have bold & mountainous outlines.

A great relief after so much prairie country. Saw a great many buffalo today. The scouts & others had a chase after some of them but without success.

Camped in a coulée where a beautiful spring of fresh water comes out & supplies a small stream, which as usual in this country, soon loses itself. Water only travels here safely below the ground, on appearing at the surface evaporation & absorption quickly cause it to disappear. A picturesque wall of stones caused a trap dyke crossing the valley from which the softer rocks wear away & leave it projecting.

The hills around dotted with buffalo. A small herd came nearly down into the camp in search of water, but swerved & retired to another coulée. Ran up on a hill to try & get a shot but they were too far away before we got there. Sat down & watched the men creeping up around three bulls which stood on a hillside about half a mile distant. Shooting began & quite an exciting hunt took place. One soon wounded & fell behind. Shots fired at him in rapid succession from various quarters soon made him bleed at the mouth & nose, & then trying to rush down a hill he stumbled & fell dead. The sportsmen then centered on him from all quarters & before long steaks were under preparation for supper. From the hill on which we sat could view the whole thing through a glass as though at a play.

August 1, 1874. Sergt. Armstrong returned from Milk R. today & reports that Campbell the U.S. Commissioner had been met 3 days E of here by a party of Sioux numbering about 800 lodges. He refused to give them anything & his escort being small (15 men) the Indians quietly cut the traces of his mules & took all the provisions they could find, leaving him scarcely enough to get into Camp on. The report may however be exaggerated.

September 9, 1874. Milk River. A very singular sight. Each family seemed to keep pretty much together on the road & there was often quite an interval between one party & the next. Men mostly riding. Women & children driving country carts. Mostly open, but some covered with hoods. Often paterfamilias & some other old masculine member of the family, then 5 or 6 Carts. No. 1 driven by materfamilias. No. 2. By sons wife, or eldest daughter. The rest very generally by children which frequently almost babies.

Lodge poles tied along side carts & projecting behind. A cloud of skirmishers consisting of dogs & loose ponies. The former not unfrequently hauling travaillles & looking ludicrously helpless & timorous when rushed out upon by a pack of dogs from our camp. Men mostly ugly, long haired & rough looking, dressed in blue coats with brass buttons, or skin suits. Women hard looking & soon wrinkled, wearing calico dresses of dark colours & with a turban of similar material wound round the head.

September 16, 1874. (The Sioux were) driven here by the Americans & in search of buffalo. That they found themselves here without any powder or bullets, & that they hoped that Col. French would give them some ammunition, & also a little tea & flour, & sugar.

Col. F. replies that The Great Mother the Queen had black & white & red children & that She loved them all alike. That She had heard that the Bad Americans were coming into her country & ill treating the Indians & that She had sent them out here to drive the Whisky Traders away & to take care of her red children &c. That they had not much provisions to spare, not having yet met with buffalo, but that he would give them some & a little ammunition.

White Cap answered that they were glad to hear all this & that they would be friendly with the English people always

The Indians wished to know from us about the line, & it being explained to them, & the method in which it was marked by piles of stones shown, they appeared satisfied, & approached the main object of the interview by saying that having talked with the chief they expected a little flour, & tea, & sugar. They got about half a bag of flour & some tea & sugar, & then all squatting in a circle proceeded to fill the peace pipe, which the chief man had brought with him & pass it round. The pipe was a very neat one, being ornamented with inlaid lead or solder & made of the genuine "red pipestone" from Dakota.

The chimney at the top has a flap on each side, each of which is supported by a pole & can be slewed round to suit the wind & prevent back draught. Behind the camp a couple of poles set up with wamtons? [Medicine Bundle?] very like rag dolls. A bundle of coloured rags & streamers, an antelope skin &c tied up in a bunch & fluttering in the wind.

Boswell while out shooting found a couple of scalps on a small pole which had apparently been lost in the bushes or hidden away there some time ago.

Sept. 19, 1874. Got a wampun necklace of dentalium shells from an indian woman for four quarter dollars.

Sept. 20, 1874. Camps roused at about 4 AM. Teams taken down to Depot when tents struck & the remaining goods there divided out & apportioned for transport amidst much bustle & some confusion. A lot of Indians from the camp, principally squaws hovering round & pick up what they could. Much amusement caused by their eagerness & struggles for leavings of sugar &c. Three women had almost a fight over an empty sugar barrel. Some surplus remaining at the last, made up of a barrel of flour, do of beans, some sugar & tea; the chief was sent for & presently arrived puffing & panting from haste, but with the best external appearance of dignity & repose in his power, & arrived with his Red Stone pipe previously mentioned. Capt A. spoke to him through an interpreter. Saying that from our friendship to the Indians & for a parting gift we left them these things, enumerating them & pointing them out. Between the words the assembled Indians uttered guttural haryhs of satisfaction, & having shaken hands all round & replied that we had "great hearts", proceeded to a business like examination of the spoils previous to their distribution.

Encounters with Aboriginal People

Donald Cameron wanted to avoid problems with the Dakota and established a trading post at Turtle Mountain to encourage better relations and to obtain intelligence as to their plans and intentions with regard to the Boundary Commission. George Arthur Hill was placed in charge of this post.

The Mdewakantons and Wahpetons had lived in the area since 1862. Their leader was H'damani (Walking Bull). On January 9, 1873 Hill reported to Captain Ward:

The Sioux here have a very friendly feeling for the British and speak well of the American parties who used them very well. They say the Sioux further west (Tetons) will not interfere with the English if they can distinguish them from the Americans, but they hate the

latter. They say that if the line does not cross the Missouri the parties will probably see no Indians at all.

Some more Sioux will be here in March from Portage and Beaver Creek (Fort Ellice) and we will have a lot of fur in the spring and require more goods than anticipated. There are only ten men here now but they are all good hunters.



Dakota Chief H'damani of the Macha Low Band, 3rd from right and Bogaga with pipe.

In the fall of 1873, just west of the Wood End depot the Boundary Commission encountered a group of Metis traders on the plains. Samuel Anderson reported:

Strange to say, we met a Native trader on his way from the Rocky Mountains to Fort Garry. He had a caravan of carts loaded with dried meat for sale at Fort Garry, and in front of the caravans in a spring wagon were his wife and family, all of a very dusky hue. There was a young Englishman with the party, who had lived for 9 years with these people, and was just like an Indian.



A WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA SCENE IN 1883

Metis family described by Anderson, photo from State Historical Society of North Dakota



Metis Traders on the plains, PAM Boundary Commission (1872-74) 165, N11932.



Metis Traders: National Archives of Canada (C-004164)



Nakota Camp, July 11, 1873



Nakota Camp second view.



Metis hunters from the "Big Camp" July 18, 1874



July 18, 1874, Metis hunting camp, south of Cypress Hills, over 200 teepees and 2,000 horses.



George Dawson gives an extensive description of the Metis camp shown above:

They live under no law or restraint other than that imposed by necessity and by the general consent, or by the priest who accompanies them. Spending the summer at large, in the neighbourhood of any district which happens to be well stocked with buffalo, they fall back eastward for winter quarters. A few of them going to Wood Mountain, but most to the White Mud river, south of the line, near the trading post known as Fort N.J. Turney. A comparatively small portion of the robes obtained by these people find their way to Winnipeg; most of the trade being carried on toward the Missouri. The summer hunt is chiefly to obtain *pemmican* meat, the skins of the buffalo being frequently wasted. In the autumn and early winter, when the skins are prime, robes are the chief object.

The 'Big Camp' consisted of over two hundred tepees, most of them dressed skin, like those of the Indians, but some of canvas. Every family owns carts, at least equal in number to that of its members; and when the camp is made, these are arranged in a circle, to form a 'corral' for the horses; the tents being pitched round the whole. The total number of horses was stated to be about 2,000, valued at from \$20 to \$100, according to their aptitude in buffalo running... The camp is assiduously guarded, to prevent surprise or horse stealing.

A few weeks before our arrival, the Half Breeds had been in the Cypress Hills, and had there assisted, or countenanced, the Sioux in a fight with the Blackfeet, in which eight of the later tribe were killed.¹²

Commissioner Featherstonehaugh was also struck by the size of the camp and its organization "a sort of military discipline founded on mutual consent...where outlying videttes are regularly maintained at some miles from the camp, so as to give early notice of the approach of any party sufficiently numerous to be formidable."¹³

On June 11, 1874, before the Commission reached Wood End, just west of Short Creek, Valentine Francis Rowe, a thirty-two-year-old British Royal Engineer had a serious accident when his horse stumbled and threw him causing a skull fracture. He was left behind to recover and was visited by a number of Indians. First, the Elk and his family visited, and then departed when a large band of Yanktonias approached. This group, the bands of Struck by the Ree and Two Dogs, had just left Cypress Hills where they had joined with the Metis to fight off Blackfoot who had been stealing Metis horses. The surveyors working further west where the Milk River crosses the boundary had met the Metis going south from this battle, noted in the pictures and descriptions above. The Sioux camped near Rowe and he got to know them quite well and he painted their pictures as well as that of White Cap, later in September of 1874. Commissioner Cameron was quite pleased with the relationship that had been established and gave Two Dogs a paper noting that he was the "Executive Chief of the Ihuktawanah of which Padinapap (Pananiapapi, or Struck by the Ree) is head," and commended their friendly behaviour and good conduct. This was a passport to cross British lines that Two Dogs carried for years to come.¹⁴

¹² George Dawson , 1875, pp.295-296.

¹³ In Samuel Anderson, 1876, p.43.

¹⁴ David McCrady, 2006: 57-58.



Sioux from the Sioux Bands camped at Wood Mountain, painted by Valentine Rowe.



Lieutenant Rowe's painting of Struck by the Ree (Pananiapi) and Two Dogs at Short Creek near Woods End depot



Struck By the Ree and Two Dogs Camp on the plains in 1874, part of a camp of about 50 lodges.



Lieutenant Valentine Rowe's painting of Chief White Cap at Wood Mountain, September 16, 1874.



Roche Percée



Mounted Metis Scout



Two Metis Fiddlers with Boundary Commission group.



Metis trader McPherson's house at North West Angle



McPHERSON [HALF-BREED] FAMILY. NOR-WEST ANGLE.

Trader McPherson and his family at their North West Angle Trading Post



Cutting the survey line across Turtle Mountain



Group of Chippewa, Metis and Whites at Fort Dufferin



Chippewa at Fort Dufferin



Wagon train coming out of a valley.



Metis Red River Cart



Wagon train in the Souris Valley.



Metis with Red River Cart



Nakota (Assiniboine) Indian Camp.

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Author Larry Haag driving a Red River Cart at “Back to Batoche” 2005.

Larry is a descendant of the Berthelette *dit* Savoyard and Faille *dit* Foy familiesboth families arrived in the Red River in about the late 1700's. Larry is a member of the Red River Metis Heritage Group and a past chair of the board of the Metis Resource Centre in Winnipeg.