

Boosah (Boucher, Busha, Bouchie), Pierre. (b. 1824)

Pierre Boucher was born in 1824 at St. Albert and died at St. Ignatius, Montana. Pierre was the son of Joseph Boucher Jr. (1795-1851) and Marguerite “Nostukew” Dupuis (1802-1859).¹ He married Marie Amable Bruneau (b: 1828 in Lac la Biche) on September 21, 1844 in Lac Ste Anne. She was the daughter of Michel Joachim Paul Bruneau and Catherine Marie (Desjarlais) Ladouceur.

Children of Pierre Boucher and Amable Bruneau:

- Louis Boucher b: October 5, 1846. He married Isabelle Ward (b: 1848) in 1866 at Red River.
- Pierre Boucher b: March 1, 1849 in St Albert, married Isabelle Bréland (b: 1845) in November 1866 in Lac Ste Anne, she was the daughter of Edouard Valade Bréland and Genéviève Zan-yeo “Ma-toos-kees” Mondion. He then married Marie Todd (b: 1859 at Sturgeon Creek). She was an illegitimate daughter of John McCallum Todd and Marie Anne Allary. Marie was raised by her aunt and uncle, Marguerite [Allary] and Benjamin Vandal. They were married in 1872 in St. Albert.
- Marguerite Marie b: May 18, 1853 in St Albert district. She married William St. Denis (b: January 1, 1868 in Battleford) in 1888 at St Albert. He was the son of Michel St. Denis and Virginie Pelletier.
- Benjamin b: August 21, 1856.
- Maria b: 1859 in St Albert. She married Henri Paquette (b: August 1848 in Fort des Prairie) in 1876 at the Bow River Mission, near Fort Calgary. His parents were Henri Paquette Sr. and Cecile Durand.
- Eve Boucher b: November 16, 1859 in St Albert, married James Ward (b: 1851 in St Albert) in 1876 in High River, his parents were James Ward and Catherine Bruneau.
- Abraham b: 1862 d: 1862
- Jean-Baptiste b: October 1870 in St Albert, died October 1870 in St Albert.
- Laurent Boucher b: October 1871 in St Albert, died October 1871.
- Marie-Anne Boucher b: 1873 in St Albert, died in 1873.

On September 19, 1877, Pierre Boucher, Louison Boucher, Jules Boucher and Edward Boucher signed a petition from John Munro and the other Métis at Blackfoot Crossing presented to Lieutenant Governor Laird concerning Métis land claims and other assistance that would be necessary when the buffalo hunt was no longer viable as a means of subsistence. Pierre Boucher’s son-in-law James Ward also signed this petition. This petition did not receive a favourable response.

In 1878, Pierre Boucher Sr. and his son Pierre Jr. signed the petition from Half-Breeds Living in Vicinity of Cypress Hills (received through the North-West Council, not dated,

¹ Marguerite was born at Lac La Biche, the daughter of Jean Baptiste Dupuis and Marie his Nakota (Assiniboine) wife.

covering letters from the Lieut.-Governor of the North-West Territories), dated 30 September 1878:² This is a petition requested a re-opening of the buffalo hunt between November 14th and February 15th each year and the granting of Métis “reserve” land. The request was for a strip of land 150 miles long along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border, running west for 150 miles into Saskatchewan. This strip was to be fifty miles from south to north. Again, the petition did not receive a favourable response.

After leaving Batoche in 1885, Gabriel Dumont went to Spring Creek, Montana to stay with his brother-in-law David Wilkie. There he met with Pierre Boucher and asked him to approach the Flatheads and Blackfeet living on reserves for permission to stay with them. The local Indian Agent reported:

On August 3, 1887, Peter Ronan, U.S. Indian Agent for the Flathead Indians west of the Rockies was visited by Pierre Busha, a Cree Half-Breed, whom Ronan believed to have been Riel’s third ranking officer in the Rebellion of 1885 on the Saskatchewan. Busha had come from the refugee camp of some 60 families and 200 persons then located on Dupuyer Creek south of the Blackfeet Reservation to find a place where his people could make a home and a living, and “if successful in negotiating with the Indians will appeal to the government to give them asylum.” At a Council on October 16, 1887, the Flathead considered and refused Busha’s request.³



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² Canada Sessional Papers, No. 45, 1886: 10-12.

³ John C. Ewars, *Ethnological Report of the Chippewa/Cree of Rocky Bay and Little Shell*. New York: Garland Publishing, 1974: 97-98.