

Charles Grant. (b. 1824)

Charles Grant was born on December 28, 1824 at St. François Xavier, the son of Cuthbert Grant and Marie McGillis. He married Euphrosine Gladu, the daughter of Charles Gladu and Marguerite Ross in 1843 at St. François Xavier. He was a Métis trader, the partner of Charles Bottineau at St. Joseph. He appears on the Pembina Census of 1850 as family #36. He is listed as an Indian Trader age 26, with wife age 26 and two boys, Modeste and Adele, ages 5 and two. Charles and Euphrosine had ten children.

- Arthur Hermengilde, born in February 1844 at St. François Xavier.
- Modeste, born April 15, 1845 at St. François Xavier.
- Adele, born December 2, 1847 at St. François Xavier, died June 14, 1856, buried at Pembina.
- Joseph, born May 26, 1850 at Pembina, died in August 1850 at Pembina.
- Bernard Cleophas, born July 24, 1851 at Pembina, died February 13, 1871 at 19 years, at St. Joseph.
- Pascal Edouard, born June 24, 1853 at Pembina, died February 15, 1854 at Pembina.
- Unnamed, born and died on June 13, 1855 at Pembina.
- Clemence, born July 1857 at Pembina.
- Charles Albert, born circa 1859. He married Louise Marion.
- Clemence, born August 7, 1858. She married Pierre St. Amour.

In 1868 Charles is on the annuity pay list for Way-ke-ge-ke-zhicks Band. His brother Charles Cuthbert Grant dit "Bay-ris" (b. 1835) was married to Marie Gingras, the daughter of Métis trader Antoine Gingras and Scholastique Trottier. Corbet (Cuthbert) "Bay-riss" Grant was a counselor to Chief Little Shell II

"Charles was a fur trader, merchant, rooming house proprietor, and an extensive livestock farmer. In 1859, he and Charles Bottineau purchased the former Kittson Trading Post then owned by Charles Cavalier, but the joint venture only lasted for about five years. After this partnership broke up, Grant took over and expanded the Grant House location at Point Michael, located just southeast of the Hyde Park cemetery. It soon developed into a farm site of many buildings for the raising of all kinds of livestock. It also became a rooming house, where many of the early settlers and their families stayed until they got their own homes erected. One early settler living in Hyde Park near Grant's Place described Mr. Grant "as a big guy, with many cattle and horses. He kept a stopping place for travelers along the trail from St. Joseph (Walhalla) to Pembina". Charles Grant played an important part in this area's early government. He was named first Postmaster in St. Joseph (Walhalla) Jan. 20, 1855. He was a member of the Minnesota Territorial Legislature in 1855-1857. In 1867, Dakota Territory Governor Faulk, appointed Charles Grant, Charles Cavalier, and Joe Rolette to organize Pembina County, Dakota Territory. At that time the County extended south to Fargo and west into

Cavalier County. His farm was sold in 1878 Charles died January 26, 1888 at the age of 64. He is buried in the St. Boniface cemetery in Walhalla.”¹

An Indian Fight; Battle Between the Sioux and Chippewas..

From the *St. Paul Pioneer*, July 3.

Published: July 12, 1861

We are indebted to James McFetridge, Esq. late United States Collector at Pembina, for the particulars of the bloody fight between the Sioux and Chippewas, of which he was an eye-witness, at St. Joseph, on the Pembina River, on the 10th June last.

Last summer while the Hon. Charles Grant was encamped with a party of hunters on Mouse River (Souris River), twelve horses were stolen from him by a party of Yankton Sioux. Nothing was heard of the horses until the 10th of June last, when a party of thirty-six Sioux warriors, accompanied by two squaws, arrived at St. Joseph with the stolen property, for the purpose of returning it, in pursuance of a recent treaty made between the Pembina half-breed hunters and the Yankton Sioux. The delegation with the stolen horses arrived, opposite St. Joseph about two o'clock in the afternoon; they immediately crossed the river and proceeded to the residence of Gov. Wilkie (a member of the last Territorial Legislature.) Unfortunately a large party of Chippewas fired on the Sioux while they were in the act of entering Gov. Wilkie's house. The Sioux took possession of the house, and, removing the "chinking" from between the logs, returned the fire with effect. From this time until midnight, a constant fire was kept up between the Indians. Six Chippewas, three Sioux, and two Assiniboines were killed during the struggle Governor. Wilkie's daughter, in passing within range of the combatants, was severely wounded in the thigh by an arrow. Mr. McFetridge describes the scene at terribly exciting, and relates instances of great individual bravery. One Chippewa, a son of the chief, Red Bear, was shot three times in an endeavor to enter the house; at each shot he fell to the ground, but raised himself and pushed forward; his progress was stopped at the threshold by one of the Sioux cleaving his head through to the chin with an axe.

The house occupied by the Sioux is about two hundred feet from the river. The Chippewas surrounded it, and, to make their escape, the Sioux were compelled to run that distance and wade the river to the south bank, in the face of a constant fire from their enemies. This they did, aided by the darkness of the night, with the loss of one warrior, who was found dead by the Chippewas in the morning, on the south bank of the stream. The Sioux left behind them thirty-two horses, (in addition to the twelve stolen ones,) and the dead bodies of three of their warriors.

¹ Neche-Bathgate History Book Committee. Proudly We speak: A history of Neche, Bathgate, Bruce and Hyde Park.

Source: <http://digitalhorizonsonline.org/digital/collection/ndsl-books/id/11168/rec/1>

Charles Grant's account of the murder of Chief "Hole-in-the-Day."

The *St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer*, June 30, 1868.

Reprinted in *The New York Times*, July 4, 1868.

Mr. Charles Grant, who arrived yesterday from Pembina, has furnished us with the particulars of the murder of the celebrated Indian Chief "Hole-in-the-Day."

Mr. Grant, who was coming down from the Red River Settlement and Pembina, met the Chief near Crow Wing on Saturday.² The two parties had some conversation together, in the course of which the Chief informed Mr. Grant that he was glad to meet him; that he was making arrangements to go down to Washington, and that he would be happy to avail himself of his company as far as St. Paul. Mr. Grant agreed to accompany him, and having some business to attend to, parted with him, the Chief proceeding in the opposite direction. At the time that Mr. Grant met him there was an Indian of Hole-in-the-Day's band in the buggy with him. From the accounts furnished to us, it appears that they had proceeded but a short distance from the place where Mr. Grant encountered them when three Indians belonging to the Leech Lake Pillagers jumped out from a clump of trees, where they had been hiding, and fired three shots at the unfortunate man—each shot taking effect—and killing him almost immediately. At the moment of the attack the Indian in the buggy jumped out, and succeeded in effecting his escape.

It appears that the Indians had previously visited Hole-in-the-Day's house, and pillaged it of all the arms they could find. They then left and on the road met the chief, and killed him with his own weapons. The place where the deed was committed was on the Gull Lake River, between Crow Wing and the Agency. After the murder they cut his body with knives and threw it into the road, where it was found a short time after by Mr. Charles A. Ruffee and Mr. Aspibnwall. The savages drove the horse and buggy off in the retreat.³

There are various reports prevailing up here as to the cause of the murder, some saying that it was effected by relatives of his first wife, who was a full-blooded Indian, and who was jealous of the influence of his present wife, who is a white woman. His wife, we understand, has been in a state of distraction since the murder. The deceased chief leaves a daughter in the St. Joseph's Academy, in this city, a very bright and intelligent young lady, who received considerable distinction in the recent examinations at that institution.⁴

Charles Grant's record of annuity payments and Métis Scrip:

² August 17, 1868.

³ It is reasonably certain the assailants were Pillagers from Leech Lake who were hired by the mixed bloods from Crow Wing: Clement Beaulieu, John Morrison, and Charles Ruffee. Murders of Indians were not under the jurisdiction of white men's courts so there was no investigation or further action by authorities.

⁴ Hole-in-the-Day, the Younger or Bug-o-na-ghe-zhisk (1825-1868) was at the time of his assassination one of the wealthiest men in Minnesota with an estate valued at \$2,000,000.

Grante, Charles (1824) [1850 U.S.] .P88.4
Grant, Charles (1830) [1860 U.S.] .P88.4
Grant, Cha's [*1868] .P88.4d
Grant, Charles [R.L. Scrip #171] .
 Minnesota Territorial Census, Pembina County, 1850:36/36 born: Red River Br. occupation: Indian trader
 U.S. Census, Becker County, 1860:725/719 born: New York occupation: trader estate \$400
 Pembina Annuity Roll, Way ke ge ke zhick's Band, 1868:227
 - 1 man, 1 woman, 3 children \$ 15 paid
 National Archives, RG 75, Entry 363, "List of Persons to Whom Scrip was Issued under Red Lake & Pembina Treaties...." Halfbreed Scrip No. 171 issued May 10, 1873, under the authority of Secretarial Decision, June 12, 1872, delivered May 10, 1873
 National Archives, RG 75, Entry 364, "Treaty of April 12, 1864, Red Lake and Pembina Half-Breeds," Scrip Stubs, Number 171 [checked], dated May 10, 1873, 160 Acres, delivered May 10, 1873, issued to Charles Grant, delivered to M.S. Cook, Acting Agent
 husband of [1850]: Grante, Eprozne (1824) born: Red River Br.
 issue: Grante, Moyest (1845) born: Red River Br.
 Grante, Odel (1848) born: Red River Br.
 husband of [1860]: Grant, Louize (1827) +
 issue: Grant, Patrick (1847) born: Hudson's Bay Company Territory race: mulatto
 Grant, Charles (1851) born: Minnesota race: mulatto
 Grant, Isabel (1855) born: Minnesota race: mulatto
 Grant, Ellen (1839) born: Minnesota race: mulatto
 Grant, William (1843) born: Minnesota race: mulatto
 Grant, Cuthbert (1845) born: Minnesota race: mulatto



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
 Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research
 Louis Riel Institute