

Charles Demontigny Sr. (b. 1812)

Charles was born on November 12, 1819, in present-day British Columbia, the son of David de Montigny, a French-Canadian, and Josephthe Fagnant, a Métis.¹ Charles can be found in the parish records of Saint-François-Xavier (Manitoba) in the mid to late 1830's. Sometime before 1841, he married Marie Desjarlais, born in April 1817, the daughter of Antoine Desjarlais and Marie Catherine Allary. They had the following children:

- Marie, b. 1841, married Edouard Wills.
- Philomene, b. 1843, married Pierre Chaboyer.
- Charles, b. 1845, married Nancy Thorne, then Maria Branconnier.
- Appoline, b. 1849, married Honore Pariseau.
- Hermas, b. 1851, married Leocadie Sansregret.
- Helene, b. 1853, married John Thorne.
- Patrice, b. 1856.

Charles Sr. had worked for Antoine Desjarlais at Fort Desjarlais in the Souris River Valley in the 1840-50s. Charles Montigny, or "de Montigny" as he is sometimes known, was one of the members of the "Committee Elected by the People" of the Red River in 1846 to seek mitigation of what the French-Canadians and Métis considered to be the extortions of the Hudson's Bay Company. Together with Louis Riel *père* and several other Métis, De Montigny certified the validity of the 977 signatures set down on Père Belcourt's petition. "Charles Demontigny" can be found on the 1854 Treaty List of Chippewa Indians of Lake Superior and the Mississippi, on which it is declared that he was living a Pembina, Dakota Territory and could write his name. He was back living at Saint-François-Xavier when the 1870 census of the Red River country was taken, but five years later was in the parish of Baie-Saint-Paul (Manitoba) when he applied for Metis scrip. Charles and his family seem to have moved south of the international border again, as they can be found in the censuses of Half-Breed Chippewas of Turtle Mountain, Dakota Territory from 1885 through 1888.

This was one of the Metis families arrested at Fort Belknap for hunting in Montana. November 24, 1878:

November 24: Cypress Mountains, Patrice Breland writes: The news here, although not very good, because the Buffalos (bison) are very scarce in the neighbourhood, they are plentiful on the other side of the line along the Milk River, but there is great inconvenience to go and hunt in that direction because the Americans defend it, they have made prisoners. Antoine Brilliant the elder, Peter Lapierre, Alexander Brilliant, Pierre Labruler, Ambroise Chartrant, Charles Demontigny and Joseph Azure, they have all been made prisoners with their families. They were arrested at Fort Belknap, they have been released after 7 or 8 days after, without being fined provided they don't return and tell folks that other prisoners will be put in gaol for two years and their horses and carts taken. I have learned that the Teton (Sioux) go

¹ The daughter of Raphael Fagnant and a Native woman.

hunting on the other side of the line numbering 300 men. The Teton are not numerous here. They are about 50 lodges and the Sante about 30 lodges, and the remainder of the Teton with Sitting Bull are at the Mud house on White River (Utah), I have learned that they are about 1,000 lodges. I think I will go very soon to trade with these people...



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