

Elzéar Goulet. (1836-1870)

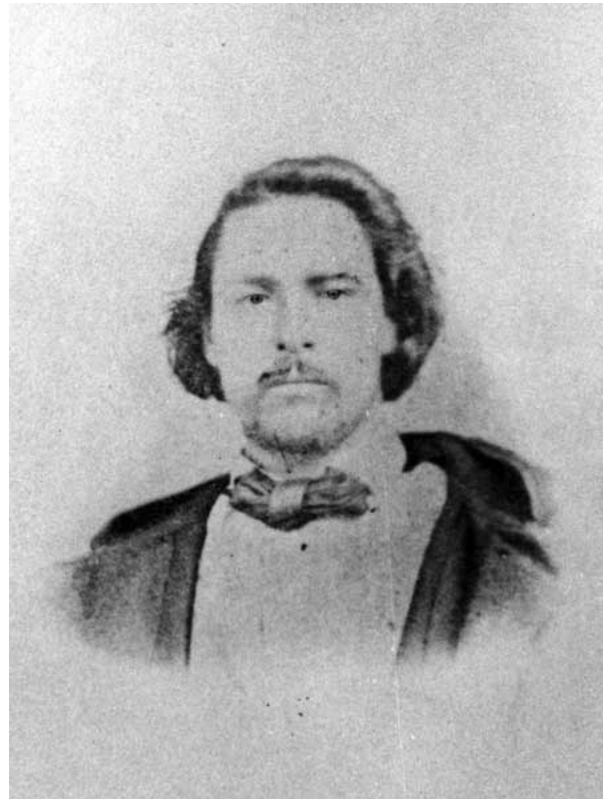
Elzéar Goulet was born on November 18, 1836 at St. Boniface, the son of Alexis Goulet and Josephte Siveright. He married H  l  ne J  r  me *dit* Saint-Matte, the daughter of Jean Baptiste J  r  me *dit* Saint-Matte and Josephte Courchene on March 8, 1859 at Pembina. Elz  ar and H  l  ne Goulet had six children. Goulet worked as a mail carrier from Pembina to the Red River from 1860 to 1869 and became an American citizen. Goulet joined Louis Riel's forces at Upper fort Garry in 1869 and became second-in-command of the M  tis militia under Ambroise-Didyme L  pine.

He was killed in Winnipeg on September 13, 1870. On that day Goulet entered the Red Saloon in Winnipeg and was spotted by James Farquharson (Shultz's father-in-law) who pointed out that he was the man who shot Thomas Scott¹ and incited Red River Expeditionary Force (RREF) men to catch him. Sanders and Madigan (of the 1st Ontario Rifles), Robert Mulligan and a man named Campbell (a voyageur for the RREF) start to chase him. They were seen by Captain MacDonald who called them back, an order the soldiers temporarily obeyed. Minutes later, they again took up the pursuit, chased Goulet into the river and while he is trying to swim to the opposite shore they stoned him, causing him to drown.

Judge Francis Godschall Johnson reported to Lt. Gov. Archibald that it might be possible to make out a murder charge against Farquharson for inciting the others.

The persons against whom such a charge could possibly be made are Farquharson (who according to one witness only) called out to the people in the house "to kill him" and Saunders, Madigan, and Campbell who, pursued, and who if they shared that intent are all equally guilty.²

Although Lord Kimberley of the British Colonial Office wrote in January 27, 1871, "there is evidence enough to send the case to trial," Judge Johnson had already recommended in December that no one be charged.



¹ On March 3, 1870 he was a member of the military tribunal that condemned Scott to death and was one of Scott's escorts to the firing squad the next day.

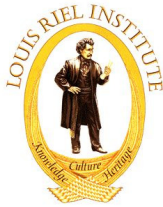
² PRO CO42/689 722 cited in Allen Ronaghan at p. 413.

Elzéar's brother Maxime Goulet served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba from 1878 to 1886 and was the Minister of Agriculture under Conservative Premier John Norquay. Elzéar's brother Leonide served in the 49th Rangers, the armed Metis scouts who accompanied the British-American Boundary Commission in 1873-74.

References:

Goulet, George & Terry. "Elzéar Goulet: Metis Martyr." *The Metis: Memorable Events and Memorable Personalities*. Calgary: Fabjob Inc., 2006: 234-242. ISBN 978-1-894638-98-0

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