

James Richards: Alberta Buffalo Hunter (b. 1835)

James Richards was born on July 2, 1835 at Moose Factory, the son of Thomas Richards and Margaret “Peggy” Moar. On March 20, 1856, at Fort Edmonton, he married Judith or Marguerite Godin; subsequently, in 1867, at St. Albert, he married Madelaine Nippissing, born December 1848, Lac La Nun (Alberta) daughter of Edouard Nipissing and Brigitte Oskaskitswak. James and Judith had six children at Fort Edmonton. James and Madeleine had five children born at Jasper House and Lesser Slave Lake.

François Gabriel Dumont, Abraham Salois (the brother-in-law of Francois Dumont), George Ward, and James Richards were the great buffalo hunters of Alberta. Dumont was a leader of the Metis operating out of the Edmonton area and Boss Hill and Tail Creek. Francois Dumont was the person who traveled to Winnipeg to bring the first priest back to establish a mission at St. Albert.



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