

James Keith Simpson. (1823-1902)

James was born on the Upper Saskatchewan in 1823, the son of Sir George Simpson and Mary Keith. His father ensured that he obtained an education and a position in the HBC working for Chief Factor John Rowand. James then became a buffalo hunter and free trader. James married Marie Catherine Mondion in 1864 at Lac la Biche. James raised excellent horses. In 1849, the Earl of Southesk met Simpson at Fort Ellice and bought a buffalo runner from him. Simpson and his wife Catherine were captured at Frog Lake during the 1885 Resistance. Simpson had known Big Bear for most of his life. He retired from HBC after 1885 and homesteaded near Onion Lake with his two stepsons, Louis and Benjamin Patenaude (both Treaty Indians).¹



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¹ Douglas W. Light, *Footprints in the Dust*. North Battleford: Turner-Warwick Publications Inc., 1987: 208.