

James Lilley, Sr. (1842-1919)

By Mary Conway

James Lilley, known in later years as Mushroom Buckey, was born in 1842 and baptized in St. John's Anglican church at the Red River Settlement. His father, Daniel Lilley was an Englishman who worked for the Hudson's Bay Company as a carpenter and had come to Moose Factory in 1822. He married Marianne Richard and upon retiring from the HBC he received Lot 171 at Red River. He later purchased HBC Lot 172. This couple had eight children. Marianne died in 1847 and Daniel in 1858.

James was baptized as a Roman Catholic. He married Marie Catherine Perrault *dit* Morin in 1863 at St. François Xavier. She was the daughter of Louis and Marguerite Malaterre. The couple's twelve children were born in that community. The youngest, Mary Jane, was born in 1885. At that time conditions were difficult for the Metis, as the Battle of Batoche had taken place in the spring of that year. And Louis Riel was hung in november 1885 at Regina. Ontario settlers were pouring in to Manitoba causing the Metis to move further and further to the outer edges of unsettled land.

James and his family moved to the St. Daniel area (near his brother William and in the summer of 1887 they then relocated to the St. Alphonse area.

In 1900, James Sr. and Marie Catherine moved to Crawford Park near Clear Lake and squatted along Clear Creek. The government ordered them off the land and paid them \$300 to relocate. Family members, Daniel, and Zack moved with their wives and children to Dunseith, North Dakota near relatives of Daniel's wife, Esther McLeod. They farmed near Bottineau for a few years then returned to homestead at Sandy Lake. In 1907, James Jr. moved to Sandy Lake followed by James Sr., Dan, and Louis and took homesteads in 1908. James Sr. died on March 14, 1919 and Marie Catherine on February 8, 1922.



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