

Swain (Swan), James Jr. (b. 1822)

James Jr. was the son of James Swain Sr. and Josephthe Descoteaux. He was married to Marie Arcand (b. 1834) at St. François Xavier in 1851. Marie was the daughter of Joseph Arcand and Marie Vestro. Their daughter, Marie Rose Swain was married to Resistance fighter François Lapierre another man who accompanied Riel to Batoche in 1884. Riel's family shared his house at St. Peter's Mission in Montana in the early 1880s. James signed a petition for a Métis reserve in Montana, sent by Louis Riel to General Nelson A. Miles, August 6, 1880. James travelled to Batoche with Louis Riel in 1884. Gabriel Dumont noted that James Swain was making bullets from the lead found in the cases of tea.¹

James Swan and his first wife, Josephthe Azure had three children: Marie Christine (1872), William Louis (1873), and Jacques (1875). After Josephthe's death in 1875, James emigrated to Montana and married Elizabeth Desnomme (Eliza) in 1877 at St. Peter's Mission, where he subsequently hosted Louis Riel. Their children were Mary Julie (1878), Mary Marguerite (1879), Patrick Joseph (1881), Frank (1884), Elizabeth (1887), Peter (1892), Mary Sophia (1894), Cecilia (1897), Sam (1899), Daniel (1900), and Mary Lucille (1902). James Swan died in 1913 and was buried at Augusta Cemetery beside his second wife Eliza Desnomme (1860-1938).²



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¹ Denis Combet, *Gabriel Dumont: Mémoires/ Gabriel Dumont: Memoirs. Les Mémoires dictés par Gabriel Dumont/Memoirs dictated by Gabriel Dumont*. Edited and annotated by Denis Combet with French to English translation by Lise Gaboury-Diallo. Saint-Boniface, Manitoba: Éditions du blé, 2006, 107.

² This is additional information was provided by Stephanie Hohn, a descendant of James Swain JR.