

## **John Desmarais. (b. 1841)**

In 1878, John Desmarais and other Metis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Metis reserve of land.<sup>1</sup>

John Desmarais was born in July 1841, at St. Francois Xavier, the son of Joseph Desmarais and Adelaide Clermont. He was first married to Rose Gervais, the daughter of Francois Gervais and Angelique Kekekons in 1864. He then married Helene Gosselin, the daughter of Francois Gosselin and Suzanne Lafournaise in 1869 at St. Norbert. John and Helene had children born at Battleford, Batoche, Fort Walsh and Wood Mountain. He then married Marie Frederick (b. 1843) the widow of Joseph Dussaume Sr. before 1887.



John Desmarais and Marie Frederick



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<sup>1</sup> Requesting a re-opening of the buffalo hunt between November 14<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup> each year and the granting of Metis “reserve” land (A strip of land 150 miles long along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border. This strip was to be fifty miles from south to north.