

Joseph DeRoin. (1819-1858)

Joseph DeRoin, the founder of St. Deroin, Nebraska, was born near Bellevue, Nebraska, the son of Amable DeRoin, a Metis trader and his Otoe Indian wife. At age 17 Joseph left his parents home and moved into the main village of the Otoes at the mouth of the Platte River. He set up a trading post at this location. By 1853 there was a village at this site that became known as St. Roin, Nebraska.

Joseph married Meek-Ka-Ahu-Me, an Omaha woman. Their first child, Mary, was born in 1841. In 1842, Joseph took two more Métisse wives, Julis and Soula (Susee) Baskette, the daughters of Balone Baskette and an Iowa woman. DeRoin had a further eight children with these two sisters. In 1843, his first wife moved back to her home village. When the Great Nemaha Half-Breed Reservation¹ was set up Joseph is shown as receiving allotments # 74 and #122. The allotter's roll also indicates that Mary and Susee received land on Great Nemaha.

On April 21, 1858, Joseph was shot and killed by James Beddow while trying to settle a debt owed by Beddow. Beddow was the white husband of an Otoe Métisse, Felicita Rogers Beddow. DeRoin had apparently got drunk and then armed himself and backed by a dozen men



¹ In 1830, the Otoe and Missouri surrendered part of their land; part of the treaty they signed provided an allotment of land for the Great Nemaha Half-Breed Reservation. By May of 1838, the Iowa, Omaha, and Otoe signed a treaty agreeing to sell the Nemaha reservation to the United States, giving "Half-Breeds" their own reservation. This land ran between the Little Nemaha River to the north and the Great Nemaha River to the south. This was approximately 138,000 acres. The "Half-Breeds" originally did not agree to this treaty. By 1856, a treaty was finally signed, and the "Half-Breeds" were moved to their own reservation.

approached the Beddow home where he was killed as he tried to cross the fence. Joseph's family inherited a fair amount of money since DeRoin had notes outstanding for \$4,079.06, \$1,500.00 of this was money owed to him by eleven Otoe Chiefs.

Reference:

Thorne, Tanis. *The Many Hands of My Relations: French and Indians on the Lower Missouri*. St. Louis: University of Missouri Press, 1996.

Photograph, Ioway Nation, Ioway Cultural Institute, downloaded from:

<http://ioway.nativeweb.org/genealogy/deroinjoseph.htm>



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