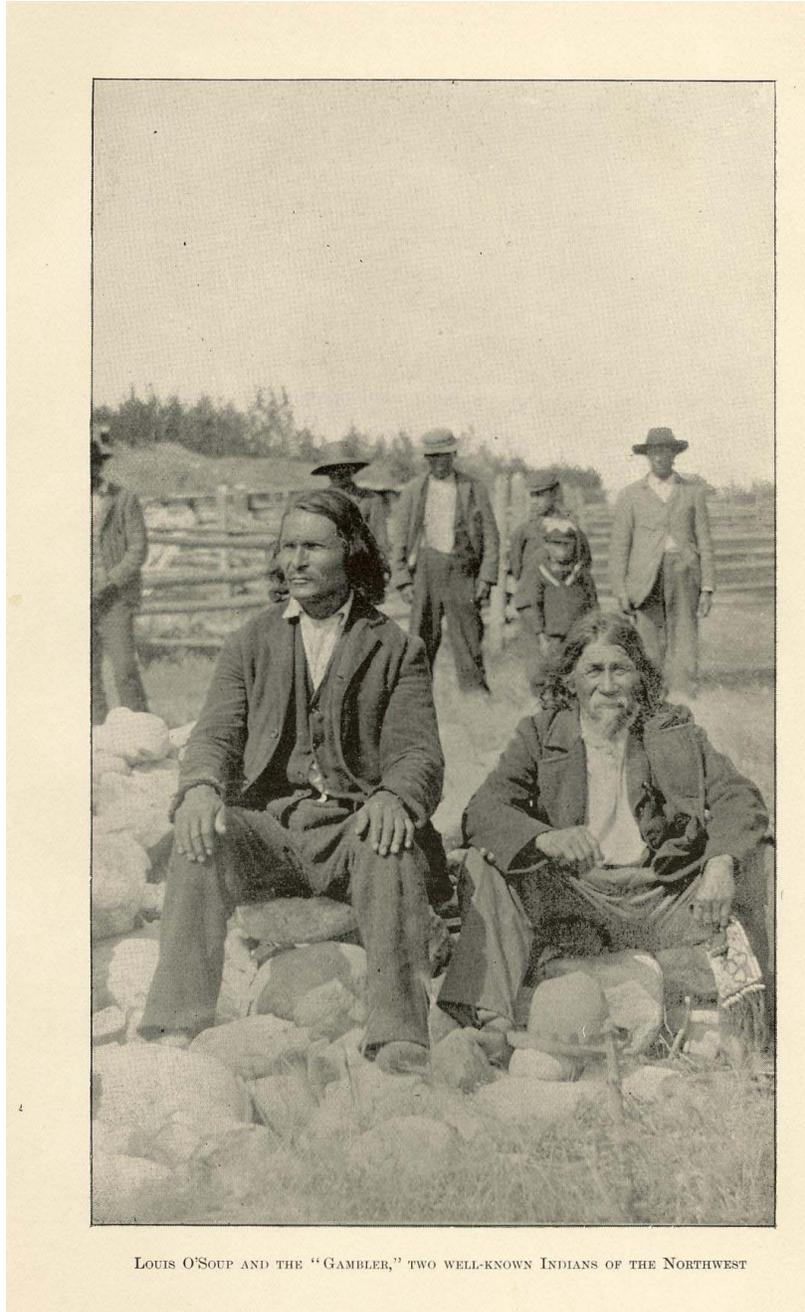


Louis O'Soup Cardinal. (c. 1835-1913)

Native leader, Louis O'Soup¹, was the eldest son of Metis leader Michael Cardinal known as Okanese (Little Bone) and his Assiniboine wife. Louis married Omasinakikewiskwew, a Nez Percé woman. They had two sons and six daughters. After the treaty signing period of the 1870s he was eventually forced to move the mixed race group he led north from the US/Canadian border area to the Qu'Appelle valley at what is now the Cowessess Reserve.



¹ Ochoup, backfat of a moose.



In 1881 O'Soup signed the drawing by Sidney Hall with his mark at bottom right.
Source: National Archives of Canada, C12947.



O'Soup at the left rear; in front: Starblanket, Flying in a Circle and Big Cloud, during the 1886 trip for the unveiling of the Brant Monument.

louis O'Soup's grandfather was Jacques Cardinal, after whom Camp de Cardinal, Jacques Creek and Jacques Pass in Alberta were named. Jacques served as George Simpson's guide through the Canadian Rockies. Michael's mother Sarah (Salley) was a Saulteaux woman. Jacques and Sarah had at least four children, André, Alexis, Michael, and Susan. André remained in the Jasper area as a guide, Susan married Jasper House fur trader, H.J. Moberly and Alexis became famous Canadian missionary Albert Lacombe's assistant. Sarah had a subsequent marriage to James Peter Whitford Sr. One of their children was Margaret (Peggy) Whitford, thus making Michael Cardinal and Margaret Whitford half-siblings.

As was customary with powerful Native men in his era, O'Soup's father, Michael Cardinal took more than one wife. His Assiniboine wife bore children Chief Louis Ochoup (O'Soup), Tail Feathers Wuttunee, Baptiste Cardinal, St. Paul, Chief Red Pheasant, Mary Cut Sleeve Keekakanekwas (who married David Ahenakew) and Chief Meekis. His Metis (French-Saulteaux) wife had children George and Antoine Bone, William Mucatehpense or Blackbird, and John JoJo. From his Orkney wife came children Keesikoowenin (also known as Moses Burns), and Baptiste Bone (Okanase).

Michael Cardinal moved to the Riding Mountain area in the early 1820s. It may well be that he had come eastward with his half-sister, Margaret and her husband, George Flett, a Metis trader. By 1816 the Fletts lived in the Prince Albert region and by 1882 were living at Fort Garry. The Fletts had at least six children: James, John, George, William, David and Margaret Atkinson. By 1869, William was Chief Trader at Fort Garry. Son George became a noted Presbyterian missionary at Prince Albert and the Riding Mountain area.

It is notable that nine of Michael Cardinal's sons became powerful chiefs and played significant roles in the history of the West.



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