

## **Michel Klyne.<sup>1</sup> (1811-1875)**

Michel was born at Fort des Prairies (Fort Edmonton), the son of Michel Kline Sr.<sup>2</sup> (b. 1781) and Suzanne Lafrance Cardinal (Métisse, b. 1790). Klyne Sr.'s father, Jean Adam Klyne, was a private in the German Auxiliary Troops in Canada, the "Hesse Hanau Chasseurs," and had fought in the War of 1812. He was married to a Marie Geneviève Bisson, also of Quebec.

Michel Sr. signed on as a voyageur with the North West Company at 17 years of age, Feb. 28, 1798. In the early 1800s, "by custom of the country," he married another teenager, Suzanne Lafrance Cardinal (b. 1790), a Métisse daughter of Jacques Cardinal and Pesew Iskwew. Michel Sr. transferred to the HBC after the NWC/HBC amalgamation in 1821. He was known to be in charge of Jasper House and Postmaster at Jasper House from 1824 to 1834.

Klyne arranged for the Kootenay and Shuswap Indians to meet with him on the east side of the Great divide for annual trading. He had a special trail cut up the Maligne River to Maligne Lake, over the Cataract Pass, then down the Cline River to the big plains of the Saskatchewan River to facilitate this annual trading. Thus the locality became known as the Kootenay Plains.<sup>3</sup> The "Old Cline Trail" ran by way of the Cline, Sunwapta and Athabasca Rivers to near modern day Jasper. [The Cline River, Mount Cline and Cline Pass in Alberta are all named after Michael Klyne.]

The family apparently retired from the fur trade in 1835. This was a buffalo hunting family who was often out on the plains. They had moved permanently to Fort Qu'Appelle by 1871. Their son, Benjamin Klyne, went on to become one of the founding fathers of Spring Creek (Lewistown), Montana.

Michel Klyne Jr. married Madeleine Beauchemin, (Métis, b. 1820) on January 9, 1838 at St. François Xavier. She was the daughter Andre Millet dit Beauchemin, (b.1778) and Charlotte Pelletier (Métis, b.1785). A hunting family, they had thirteen children and they lived variously at St. François Xavier, Point Douglas, St. Joseph and, Devil's Lake. Their son, Benjamin Klyne (b. 1847) was one of the founders of the Métis community of Spring Creek, Montana now Lewistown. Michel died in 1875 at Wood Mountain, Saskatchewan.

Michel's sister, Jane Klyne-McDonald (b. 1808) was married to Archibald McDonald a chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company. His brother George Klyne (b. 1828) became an MLA for Ste. Agathe Riding in Manitoba (1871-1874).

In 1885, when Madeleine, his wife applied for Michel's Métis Scrip she states:

The late Michel Klyne, was a Halfbreed head of a family, and resided in the North-West Territories previous to the 15<sup>th</sup> July 1870.

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<sup>1</sup> His name has various spellings, Klein, Clyne and Cline are also used in the historical records.

<sup>2</sup> Michel Klyne Sr. entered the employment of the North West Company in the late 1790s as a fur trader. After the 1821 merger of the NWC and the HBC, he was put in charge of Jasper House. He served as postmaster for 11 years, from 1824 to 1835. Alberta's Cline River and Mount Cline were named in his honor.

<sup>3</sup> Wilson, Thomas. *Trail Blazer of the Canadian Rockies*, Calgary: Glenbow-Alberta Institute, 1972: 37.

The said late Michel Klyne was temporarily absent from the Territories in 1870, but returned to the Territories and took up his permanent domicile at Fort Qu'Appelle in the Fall 1871.

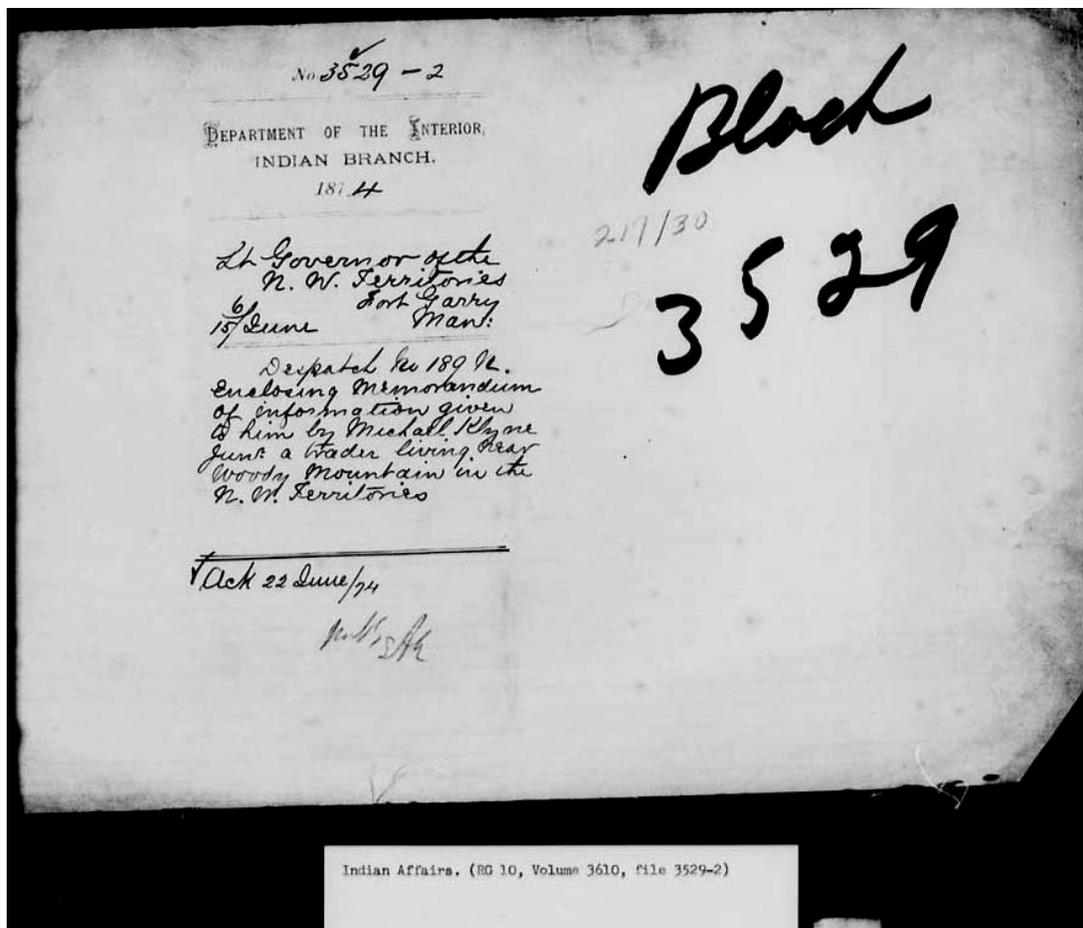
The said Michel Klyne was the son of a White man by the same name and of an Indian woman – he was born at Edmonton – in 1811.

The said Michel Klyne died at Fort Qu'Appelle on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 1875 and I produce his burial certificate.

Besides his widow he left the following children:

1. Andre Klyne, aged 44 years, living at Fort Qu'Appelle.
2. Michel Klyne, 43 years, at present absent Fort Qu'Appelle but domiciled here.
3. Marie Klyne, wife of Joseph Bellegarde, of File Hills, aged 41.
4. Guillaume Klyne, aged 39 years, a resident of Wood Mountain.
5. Elise Klyne, wife of Thomas Kavanagh of Fort Qu'Appelle, aged 37 years.
6. Benjamin Klyne, 35 years, of Milk River.
7. Theophile Klyne, 33 years, of Fort Qu'Appelle.
8. Veronique Klyne, 31 years, wife of Thomas Kelly, of Fort Qu'Appelle.
9. Madeleine Klyne, aged 29 years, wife of Thomas Desjarlais, of Fort Qu'Appelle.
10. Napoleon Klyne, 21 years, of Fort Qu'Appelle.

In addition to the above named deceased two more children, respectively named Pierre and Helene but died long ago without leaving any descendants.



Substance of the information given by Michel Klyne Jr. to the Lieut.-Governor [Morris]  
— June 6, 1874:

Michel Klyne Jr. lives on the banks of the White River, a branch of the Milk River, about thirty miles north of the International Boundary line. Has resided there for over seven years—there are about 150 houses there, and in the country between, between there and Woody Mountain, not less than 400 families, Half Breeds and Indians, all these are on the British side—Had good hunting this year and only three months of snow.

The International Boundary survey will have no trouble the Indians so far as Woody Mountain—they respect the English—some presents should be given them—There may be trouble with the American parties of the survey—cannot say as to the Teton Sioux—they steal from or kill Americans when they have a chance. Heard of the first murder of Assiniboines by the Americans — was seventeen days coming from the White River to Fort Garry. It is about 350 miles to come by the route of the Dominion survey.

Scrip;

Klyne, Michel Sr. - Concerning his claim as a head of family - Address, Fort Qu'Appelle - Born, December 25, 1839 at Fort Ellice, North West Territories - Father, Michel Klyne, (Métis), deceased - Mother, Madeleine Beauchemin, (Métis) - Married, to Helene Davis and 1877 to Marie Vallée at Qu'Appelle Mission - Children living, six (names on declaration) - Claim 166

Klyne, Madeleine - Concerning the claim of her deceased husband, Michel Klyne Sr., a Métis head of family - Address, Fort Qu'Appelle - Born, 1811 at Edmonton - Died, December 9, 1875 - Father, Michel Klyne, (white) - Mother, Indian - Heirs, Madeleine (Beauchemin) Klyne, widow and deponent; Andre Klyne; Michel Klyne; Marie, wife of Joseph Bellegarde; Guillaume Klyne; Elise, wife of Thomas Kavanah; Benjamin Klyne; Theophile Klyne; Veronique, wife of Thomas Kelly; Madeleine, wife of Thomas Desjarlais; Napoleon Klyne - Scrip for \$160 - Claim 182.

Children's scrip:

Klyne, Veronique - Concerning her claim as a child - Address, Fort Qu'Appelle - Born, June, 1857 at St. Joe, Dakota - Father, Michel Klyne, (Métis) - Mother, Madeleine Beauchemin, (Métis) - Married, June, 1872 at St. Joe to Thomas Kelly - Children living, three, Marie, John and Mary Jane - Children deceased, four - Claim 52

Klyne, Napoleon - Concerning his claim as child - Address, Fort Qu'Appelle - Born, August, 1863 at St. Joe, Dakota - Father, Michel Klyne, (Métis) - Mother, Madeleine Beauchemin, (Métis) - Claim 156

Klyne, Madeleine - Concerning her claim as a child - Address, Fort Qu'Appelle - Born, August 1861 at St. Joe, Dakota - Father, Michel Klyne, (Métis) - Mother, Madeleine Beauchemin, (Métis) - Married, May, 1879 at Qu'Appelle to Thomas Desjarlais - Children living, three, Rosine, Thomas and Justine - Claim 105

Klyne, Guillaume - Concerning his claim as a child - Address, Willow Bunch - Born, 1839 at Point Douglas - Father, Michel Klyne, (Métis) - Mother, Madeleine Beauchemin, (Métis) - Married, 1871 at St. Boniface to Madeleine Poitras - Children living, four (names on declaration) - Children deceased, three - Scrip for \$240 - Claim 1583

Klyne, Elise - Concerning her claim as a head of family - Address, Fort Qu'Appelle - Born, September 1846 at St. Joe, Dakota - Father, Michel Klyne, (Métis) - Mother, Madeleine Beauchemin, (Métis) - Married, Jan. 13, 1867 at Devil's Lake, Dakota to Thomas Kavanagh - Claim 55

Klyne, Andrew - Concerning his claim as a head of family - Address, Fort Qu'Appelle - Born, September 14, 1840 at Point Douglas - Father, Michel Klyne, (Métis) - Mother, Madeleine Beauchemin, (Métis) - Married, June 10, 1866 at St.

Joe to Elize Desjarlais - Children living, seven (names on declaration) - Children deceased, one - Claim 93



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell  
Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research  
Louis Riel Institute