

Pierre “Beau-blé” Laverdure. (1838-1916)

Pierre Laverdure was born on June 1838 in Pembina district, the son of Joseph Laverdure and Therese Villebrun.¹ His paternal grandparents were Alexis Laverdure and Angelique “Kisi-kawpskup” Montour. Pierre died on September 5, 1916 in Belcourt, North Dakota. He married Agnes Parenteau (b. 1850)² in 1866 at the Assumption Mission. They had fifteen children.

- Jean Baptiste, born 1870, died 1884.
- Angele, born 1870 at Duck Lake, died 1873.
- Stanislas, born 1872, married Marguerite Peppin, then Rosina Lizotte.
- Elise, born 1873, Duck Lake.
- Cecile, born 1873 at Duck Lake.
- Eustache “Leon”, born 1874.
- Melanie, born 1876, died 1878 at St. Laurent.
- Isidore, born 1877, married Francoise Lavallee, daughter of Pierre Lavallee and Josephte Henault in 1899.
- Armyil, born 1878.
- Michel, born 1879.
- Isabelle, born 1882 at Lebret, married Patrice Morin.
- Marguerite, born 1885, married Jean Baptiste Davis.
- Adele, born 1887, married Alexander Davis, then Joseph R. Allard.
- Pauline, born 1899, married Albert Montour.
- Moses, born 1899.

Pierre’s brother was Joseph “Tchee-zo-zay” Laverdure Jr., born July 1834. He married Marie Martel on September 14, 1858 in the Assumption Mission, near Pembina. His sister was Marie Laverdure, born circa 1837 in Pembina district. She married Antoine “Wip-saki-ickam” Pocha dit Paquin on June 8, 1858 in the Assumption Mission

His father, Joseph Laverdure held HBC lot 1313 at Red River and Pierre had lots 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313 and 1315. This was a Turtle Mountain buffalo-hunting family. Pierre appears on the Minnesota Territorial Census for Pembina County in 1850 as part of family #51. On May 20, 1874 he received Half Breed Scrip pursuant to the 1864 Treaty with the Red Lake and Pembina Bands of Chippewa Indians (Scrip # 396). Pierre (#638), his brother Joseph (#652), and sons Stanislas (#640) and Isidore (#641) were signators to the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Treaty of October 8, 1904.

As already noted, Pierre married Agnes Parenteau, the daughter of Joseph Dodet Parenteau, one of the original St. Laurent Metis settlers. Pierre is noted in Gabriel Dumont’s account of the fighting on April 24, 1885 at Tourond’s Coulee. In Cloutier’s journal he is credited with killing one of the cannoniers.

¹ Joseph, born 1804 in Pembina district, died August 16, 1888 at Turtle Mountain, near Belcourt, North Dakota. He married Therese Plouffe Villebrun in 1833 at Pembina, the daughter of Louis Villebrun and Marianne Collets (Chippewa). She was born circa 1810 – 1811.

² She died on August 19, 1923 at Belcourt, North Dakota.

It was close to noon when the soldiers placed the cannon. Pierre Laverdure killed the cannon operator. Before sunset, one half hour after the battle, some Metis saw the brain of the cannon operator on the prairie; Elie Dumont, Gilbert Breland, Moïse Ouellette all saw him. We measured from the cannon to the site from which Pierre Laverdure had shot: it was thirty paces.³

Isidore Dumas says that at the battle for Batoche:

On one occasion, Philippe Gariepy and Pierre Laverdure were both seen kneeling down on the hillside and coming out in the open to shoot. When one led, the other would follow; and between them existed a sort of rivalry as far as courage was concerned. "You are going to get killed!" shouted the Metis. But they would not listen.⁴

On December 8, 1885, James Anderson wrote to Lieut. Governor Dewdney and indicated that there were about 16 Half Breeds refugees living at Turtle Mountain in North Dakota and these families were Resistance participants from the South Saskatchewan. He names the Laverdure brothers (Joseph and Pierre) and Ouellette.⁵ On May 13, 1866 Nichol wrote to Dewdney from St. Johns that:

(He) was told by a French Man that the Breeds from Batoche had left for Pembina, he also told me that their names were Laverdure and Kennedy and that there was another with them named Vesture.⁶

They had apparently arrived from Batoche via Qu'Appelle, Fort Ellice and Rock Lake to St. John's and were then going on to Pembina and St. Boniface and "were working up the Breeds, and that the Blackfeet and Blood Indians were going to join them and that they would make a bigger fight than they did last year."



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³ Cloutier, *op cit*, Vol. 2: 4.

⁴ SHM, p. 61.

⁵ Glenbow Institute, Edgar Dewdney fonds, Series 22, Riel Rebellion, James Anderson's Reports – 1885, M320.

⁶ Nichol, St. John's, to Dewdney. -- May 7 -May 30, 1886. -- Report on Half Breeds in Montana and Dakota. Dewdney fonds, pp. 1290-1297.