

## **Pierre Paquette (1796-1836)**

Pierre was born at St. Louis, Missouri, the son of Jean Baptiste Paquette, a trader working out of Mackinac and Ho-a-me-no-kau, a daughter of White Crow, the Chief of the Rock River Band of Winnebago.

Paquette was a Metis trader, scout and interpreter. In 1818, Paquette established an American Fur Company post at the portage between the Fox and the Wisconsin Rivers. For several years he operated as an agent for Joseph Rolette of the AFCo. Joseph's brother Laurent Rolette worked as Paquette's clerk. Paquette interpreted for the Ho-Chunk at the treaty councils in the 1830s following the Black Hawk War. At the request of the Winnebagos he received land as part of their 1832 treaty agreement. He was fluent in French, Winnebago, English and several other Aboriginal languages. He was a government scout during the battle of Wisconsin Heights and later served as an interpreter for Henry Dodge. He was assassinated by Mauzemoneka (Iron Walker) during treaty negotiations in October, 1836.

Paquette was known for his physical size and strength as well as his personal integrity. He was six-foot two and 240 pounds, and it was said that he could carry an 800-pound barrel of lead and once lifted a horse clear off the ground. Pierre was married to Therese Peltier dit Antaya of Prairie du Chien. She was the step-daughter of Joseph Crelie. They had four children. He later married her half-sister Florence Courville.

The town of Poynette, Wisconsin is named after Pierre (a misspelling of Paquette)



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