

Ross family and the 1885 Resistance

The Michif-Saulteaux descendants of Hugh Ross (b. 1793)¹ and Sarah “Sally” Short (b. 1795) played significant roles in the history of Western Canada, particularly in the 1885 Metis Resistance. Sarah was the Metis daughter of James Short born in 1767 at Orphir, Orkney Islands, and his wife Elizabeth “Bethsy” (Saulteaux b 1783).

Children:

Daniel Donald Ross (1822-1885) A buffalo hunter, Donald Ross was a member of the Jean Baptiste Falcon hunting party out of St. Francois Xavier that was involved in the famous Metis/Dakota Battle of the Grand Coteau in 1851. He married Catherine Delorme (b. 1825) and they moved to a claim south of Tourond’s Coulee. Ross was a member of Riel’s Exovedate and Council in the 1885 Resistance. He was one of the leaders of the men who rescued those who were trapped during the fighting at Tourond’s Coulee. He was killed on May 12, 1885, the last day of fighting at Batoche.

Roderick Ross (b. 1829) Roderick was a St. Francois Xavier trader, the son of Hugh Ross and Sarah Short. He married Marie Delorme the daughter of Urbain Delorme and Madeleine Vivier. In 1878, Roderick and other Metis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Metis reserve of land in 1878. He also signed the September 2, 1880 petition from the Metis of Lake Qu’Appelle regarding their land claims. His second marriage was to Suzanne Pelletier (b: March 22, 1849) on April 4, 1871 in the Lebret Mission. She was the daughter of Charles Pelletier and Suzanne Bercier. Roderick died on March 19, 1897 in Lebret, Qu'Appelle Valley

John Ross (1832-1885) Ross was born on October 21, 1832 at White Horse Plains. He was the brother of Donald Ross who was killed at Batoche. In 1857 he was one of the Metis men employed by the Palliser Expedition. He married Marguerite Grant (b. 1833) the daughter of Cuthbert Grant on February 4, 1856 in St Francois Xavier, they then moved to the Duck Lake area. He supported Riel in the 1885 Resistance and was a member of the Exovedate. Council minutes indicate that John was in charge of the cattle supplies.

Charles “Kee-yas-koo-shish” Ross (b. 1835) Charles was born at St. Francois Xavier, June 2, 1835. He married Marguerite Allard (b: August 27, 1835) at St Francois Xavier Parish on August 4, 1856.

Marie Marguerite Ross (b. 1837) Marie was born on May 25, 1837 at St. Francois Xavier. She married Louis Houle, in 1854 at St Francois Xavier; he was born in 1824 and died in 1870 on the prairie. He was the son of Antoine Houle and Josephte Lauzon. She then married Zacharie Poitras on July 3, 1871 at Wood Mountain, Saskatchewan.

¹ Died 15 September 1863 in St Francois Xavier.

Nancy Anne Ross (b.1838) Nancy was born on 14 August 1838 in St Francois Xavier. She married Francois Piche on March 20, 1856 at SFX.

William Ross (b. 1840) William married Isabelle Gervais, the daughter of Alexis Gervais and Madeleine Fagnant. He too was one of the Metis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Metis reserve of land in 1878. He died in 1921 at Ituna, Saskatchewan.

Angelique Ross (b. 1844) Angelique was born on May 7, 1844 in St Francois Xavier Parish. She married Alexis "Mush-kar-o-say" Zastre (b: July 10, 1843) in St Francois Xavier on January 10, 1865. He was the son of Louis George "Gonzaque" Zastre (Zace) and Angelique Parisien.

Elizabeth Betsy Ross (b. May, 1848).

Catherine Ross (b May, 1848).

Marie Labine Ross (b 1851) Marie Labine was born in 1851 at St Boniface. She died in 1876 in St Francois Xavier district. She married Isidore Zastre (b: June 10, 1855) in 1875 at St. Boniface. In 1884, he purchased his father's homestead - River Lot #77 in St Francois Parish district. In 1929, Isidore became the champion Jig-Dancer for the Province of Manitoba, he died in 1932 in St Francois Xavier. He was the son of Louis George "Gonzaque" Zastre and Angelique Parisien.

Marie Celina Ross (b. 1852) Marie Celina Ross was born on December 31, 1850 at St. Francois Xavier. She married Pierre Mailloux dit Malboeuf, the son of Pierre Mailloux and Marie (--?--) on 13 January 1874 at St. Francois Xavier. She died on October 29, 1913 at Ituna. She was also known as Marie Sabine Ross.

Mathilda Ross (b. December 11, 1852).

Grandchildren:

Marie Andronique Ross (b. 1850) Marie was the daughter of Roderick Ross and Marie Delorme. She was married to Resistance activist Louis Marion who was farm instructor on Beardy's reserve.

Madeleine Ross. Madeleine was the daughter of Roderick Ross and Marie Delorme. She was married to Antoine Lefort, one of Gabriel Dumont's Captains during the 1885 Resistance.

Blandine "Blanche" Ross (b. 1857) Blanche was the daughter of Donald Ross and Catherine Delorme. She was married to Resistance activist Maurice Henry.

John Ross Jr. (b. 1857) John was the son of John Ross and Maria Grant. He married LaRose Parenteau, the daughter of Joseph Parenteau. John Jr. was active in the Resistance of 1885.

Betsy Ross (b. 1858) Betsy was the daughter of John Ross and Maria Grant. She married Resistance activist John Sansregret.

Marie Rosine Ross (1859-1886) Marie Rosine was the daughter of Donald Ross and Catherine Delorme. She was married to Resistance activist Boniface Lefort.

Julie Ross (1862-1895) Julie was the daughter of Donald Ross and Catherine Delorme. She was married to Resistance activist William Thorn (1859-1930).

Corbet Ross (b. 1863) Corbet was the son of John Ross and Maria Grant, he was active in the 1885 Resistance.

Louis Ross (b. 1864) Louis was the son of John Ross and Maria Grant. He was active in William Boyer's Company during the 1885 Resistance.

Eliza Ross (b. 1865) Eliza was the daughter of John Ross and Maria Grant. She married Resistance activist Cuthbert Fidler.



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