

Solomon Hamelin. (1810-1893)

Solomon Hamelin, from White Horse Plains, was a French Half-Breed who was a member of the Council of Assiniboia and then appointed to Manitoba's Legislative Council (Upper House) in 1871 by Lieutenant Governor Archibald. He ran for election to the Manitoba Legislature in 1878 but was defeated by Joseph Royal.

Hamelin's father, Jacques Hamelin and mother, Angélique (Tourangeau) settled at Red River in the late 1790s. Solomon's wife was Isabelle Vandale, the daughter of Marguerite (a Saulteaux), and a French-Canadian voyageur, Antoine Vandal. Their son, Fermin married Clemence, the daughter of Pascal Bréland and their son Joseph, served as a member of the Legislative Assembly where he represented Ste. ,Rose du Lac for 13 years. Their daughter Isabelle married Benjamin Nault who was a Constable at Red River. Hamelin's grandson, Joseph Hamelin was elected as an M.L.A. in 1914. Solomon died at St. Rose du Lac on September 30, 1893.



Leaders such as Solomon Hamelin and Pascal Bréland did not support Riel's provisional government in 1869-70. Even after relative peace had come to the settlement in 1870, Bréland was considered an opponent of Louis Riel. He was called a scoundrel by Joseph Dubuc and according to Joseph Royal, Bréland and Solomon Hamelin had founded a new "National Party".

Children of Solomon Hamelin and Isabelle Vandale:

- Lazare, married Marie Ubcisbyem Cardinal.
- Monique, born March 4, 1832, married Norbert Parreault.
- Joseph, born August 1833, married Josephte Sayer, the daughter of the famous Pierre Guillaume Sayer and his wife Josephte Frobisher. Joseph then married Julie Larance.
- Isabelle, born circa 1835 on the plains, married Benjamin Nault.
- Josephte, born 1839 at St. vital, married Jean-Baptiste Plouf.
- Jean Baptiste, born 1840, married Marguerite Houle.
- Alexandre, born August 7, 1841, married Angelique Houle.
- Antoine, born November 8, 1842, married Philomene Perrault.
- Cecile, born 1842, married Pierre Paul.
- Sarah, born October 1846 at St. Vital, married Martial Payette.
- Firmin, born September 1848 at St. Vital, married Clemence Breland.
- Louis, born November 18, 1850 at St. Vital, married Marie McGillis, in 1874 at Lebret, SK.

The famous Métis singer Ray St. Germain is a descendent of Hamelin.



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