

## **William McKay III.** (1853-1932)

William was born at Fort Ellice on September 17, 1853, the son of William McKay Sr.<sup>1</sup> and Mary Cook. At an early age he was employed with the HBC, he then freighted between Fort Pitt and Green Lake. He went back to HBC in 1874 and worked for them for the next 30 years.

He was involved in the Treaty 4 negotiations at Fort Qu'Appelle and the Treaty 6 negotiations at Fort Carlton in 1876. In 1879 he was appointed as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Battleford Light Infantry Company. During the 1885 Resistance he enrolled in the Battleford Home Guard No. 2 Company. He was a scout for the Canadian troops.<sup>2</sup> He is most famous for heading off Poundmaker and war Chief Fineday at Battleford in 1885. He died on his farm at Prince Albert in 1931.



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<sup>1</sup> William was John Richards McKay's second son. He joined the HBC in 1837 and saw most of his service in the Swan River District; this included 12 years at Fort Ellice. He started with the HBC as a "coopers" apprentice and rose through merit to postmaster then clerk and was commissioned as a Chief Trader in 1865.

<sup>2</sup> Douglas W. Light, *Footprints in the Dust*. North Battleford: Turner-Warwick Publications Inc., 1987: 94.