

Joseph Delorme. ¹(b. 1849)

Joseph Delorme was the guard for Captain D.R. Cameron from William McDougall's party. During the Red River Resistance Cameron was stopped at the barricade at La Rivière Sale on October 21, 1869.

Joseph was born on February 1, 1849, the son of Urbaine Delorme Sr. and Madeleine Vivier; and was the younger brother of Métis trader Norbert Delorme. Urbain Delorme Sr. was widely known as the 'Chef des Prairies' for his longstanding role as a Captain in Métis hunting camps. Along with Louis Riel Sr, Urbain was present with other freemen as they protested the 1849 trial of Guillaume Sayer over the right to free trade in the Red River.

Joseph married Lizette McLeod (b. 1854) on February 9, 1875 at St. François-Xavier. Louise McLeod (b. 1850) was the daughter of Joseph McLeod and Louise Marchand dit Lapierre. They had five children born at Fort Walsh, Cypress Hills and Calgary.

- Elenore Anne, born January 14, 1876 at Fort Walsh, married William Henry Burton in 1900.
- Mary Jane, born May 2, 1878, died in 1881.
- Joseph Jr., born April 30, 1882 at Cypress Hills.
- William, born 1885 at Calgary.
- Corbett, born August 1, 1885 at Calgary, died in 1886.

Joseph Delorme was one of the members of the Cypress Hills Métis hunting brigade who signed a petition for a Métis reserve in 1878. His brother Norbert Delorme (b. 1837) signed this petition. His sisters Marie Delorme (b. 1833) and Sarah Delorme (b. 1842), were also members of this hunting brigade. Marie was married to Roderick Ross, the son of Hugh Ross and Sarah Short. Sarah Delorme was married to Moise Breland, the son of Alexandre Breland and Emelie Wills. Moise and Roderick were both signatories to this petition for a reserve.

Joseph Delorme served on the Court Martial that condemned Thomas Scott to death. He moved to the Tourond's Coulee area on the South Saskatchewan in 1882. Delorme was involved in the 1885 Resistance at Duck Lake with Gabriel Dumont. Dumont reported that throughout the Duck Lake fight Delorme was at his side fighting like a lion.

During the 1885 Resistance Delorme was an inspirational leader during the fighting at Tourond's Coulee. Isidore Dumas reports:

*Joseph Delorme encouraged the people all the time; he cried out "Courage! Courage! We must defend ourselves." The battle lasted until 6 o'clock p.m. or a bit before 6 o'clock. He visited the men to count them. He found 44 living."*²

¹ A signator of Gabriel Dumont's petition (dated St. Antoine de Padoue, 4th September, 1882) to the Prime Minister for a survey and land grants.

² Cloutier, *op cit* Vol. 2, p. 10.

Joseph fought as a member of Captain Daniel Gariépy's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. He was wounded and captured at Batoche. In his memoir, Dumont recalls:

*Joseph Delorme, now at Dauphin, lost both testicles at the battle of Batoche. The bullet also went through his thigh. He was found and looked after by the English. There were huge flaps of skin on both sides of the wound. To close it, the women put him on a table and wanted to put him to sleep. He refused, and laughed while they operated to show he had no fear.*³

In his testimony of August 13, 1885 at the Regina trial Father Alexis André says:

Joseph Delorme I knew in Manitoba and during the three years that he has been in the Saskatchewan. He was always a very respectable, hard working man, honest and well thought of. He, for a long time, refused to have anything to do with Riel, and induced his neighbors to refuse to do the same. It was only by force and threats that he was compelled to take part in the rebel party. He has been severely wounded, is a cripple for life, and his home and family utterly ruined. If he has offended he has been very heavily punished, and the hand of justice might with mercy, deal lightly with him. He has a wife and four children and has lost everything. (CSP, 1886, Vol. 13, pp. 385-386)

Delorme was arrested on July 20, 1885, tried at Regina on August 14, 1885 on the charge of treason-felony, convicted and then released on his own recognizance with a conditional discharge. The family later moved to Calgary.

Scrip records:

Delorme, Joseph; address: Medicine Hat; claim no. 1191; born: 3 April, 1882 at Cypress Hills; father: Joseph Delorme (Métis); mother: Eliza McLeod (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 750.

Quesnelle, Liza; (formerly wife of Joseph Delorme; for her deceased daughter, May Jane Delorme; address: Medicine Hat; born: 2 May, 1878 at Fort Walsh; father: Joseph Delorme (Métis); mother: Liza McLeod (Métis and deponent); died: October, 1881 at Fort Walsh; heirs: Liza Quesnelle; scrip cert.: form D, no. 1154 for \$80.00; Joseph Delorme, scrip cert.: form D, no. 1156 for \$80.00; Annie Bourston, scrip cert.: form D, no. 3245 for \$60.00; William Delorme, scrip cert.: form D, no. 3246 for \$20.00; claim no. 1161.

Quesnelle, Liza; (formerly wife of Joseph Delorme; for her deceased son, Corbett Delorme; born: 1 August, 1885 at Calgary; died: February, 1886 at Calgary; address: Medicine Hat; father: Joseph Delorme (Métis); mother: Liza McLeod (Métis and deponent); heirs: Liza Quesnelle, scrip cert.: form D, no. 1198 for \$60.00; Annie Burston,

³ Michael Barnholden (Translator), *Gabriel Dumont Speaks*, Vancouver: Talon Books, 1993: 25.

scrip cert.: form D, no. 1200 for \$60.00; Joseph Delorme, scrip cert.: form D, no. 1202 for \$60.00; William Delorme, scrip cert.: form D, no. 1204 for \$60.00; claim no. 1241.

Delorme, William; address: Medicine Hat; claim no. 1190; born: 1885 at Calgary; father: Joseph Delorme (Métis); mother: Eliza McLeod (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 748.

Burton, Annie; address: Cranbrook, British Columbia; claim no. 1284; born: 15 January, 1876 at Fort Walsh; father: Joseph Delorme (Métis); mother: Liza MacLeod (Métis); married: 28 March, 1900 at Fort Steele to William Henry Burton; scrip cert.: form E, no. 3281.



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