

## Parenteau, Alexandre (b. 1845)

Alexandre was the son of Joseph Dodet Parenteau and Angélique Godon. He married Philomene Iskwesis Patenaude, the daughter of Michel Patenaud and Joseph Bourassa in 1866 at St. Joseph's, North Dakota. In the 1870s, they lived in Batoche, but in the 1880s they were living at Battleford. Alexandre provided Louis Riel's Council with scouting reports from the Battle River area before fighting broke out at Batoche.

### Scouting Report April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1885

The Indian camp is between the reserve of "Man-who-was-struck-in-the-back," and that of "Straw Man." I started from the Red Prairie Bend on Battle River. This is the tenth day since I started. Three Indians came and camped at my place. I asked them to tell me the truth, so that I might bring reliable news. They answered that they had killed ten for certain, and that the first was the farmer of the Assiniboines... Alex Salomon's pupil, with Smart went to Winnipeg. The youth went in advance with four other men and I saw them near the Indian camp. He had deserted. When he reached the camp the Indians took his horse and arms away from him. Then they asked him to tell the truth as to whether he had deserted to come to the camp? He answered, "Yes." The Indians asked if he had seen any soldiers. He said, "Yes, I saw some between the river and the big grove. They said there were five hundred." When I left the grove the three Indians accompanied me as far as the end of the buttes. There we unharnessed in order to eat before parting. After going some distance I saw five horsemen and rushed toward them. When I got near they made a sign to me to stop and I did not do so but kept on. And they began firing at me (it was twenty-five or thirty miles from the Battle River) but I continued advancing upon them. They fired seven shots. They were lying on the ground in order to fire at me, and when they saw that I did not stop they mounted their horses and fled. When I got to the top of the hill I saw the camp. They were on horseback to chase me and I got away from there. In the spring I had left my horses in the grove and I went to look for them. I found them, and on the following day I left the place and camped beyond Eagle River in the buttes; then I camped at the spring. On reaching Pointe des Buttes de Sable I saw tracks of horses, the dung had not time to dry. There were five of them. I did not see them and I do not think they saw me. They were going towards Clarke's Crossing. At the telegraph I saw thirty in the distance, and when I got there I counted the tracks. There I saw two blankets, one blue and one white. Nearer to me I saw one; he was alone and was flying as fast as he could go. I made for the river, got down the hills, and tethered my horse in some small maples. It is there I left my family. And when I left them I came and camped in the sand buttes a little way from the camp, and in the morning I got on top of the butte and saw Middleton's camp on this side of the river. Towards evening yesterday I left the place. I wanted to cross the road in the open in order to reach a grove. My wife became faint and we crouched down there. They did not see us. Thence I went to Mr. Belanger's.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> CSP, Vol. 123, No. 43, pp. 26-27.



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