

Desnomme, Pierre (1815-1875)

Pierre Desnomme. was an interpreter and witness at the Qu'Appelle Lakes Treaty No. Four signed on September 15, 1874.

Pierre was the son of Pierre Desnomme Sr. (b. 1815) and Lisette (First Nations). He was a Southesk Expedition guide in 1859. Although John McKay was designated the Head guide for the 1859 Southesk Expedition¹ and oversaw all aspects of the trip, their real guide, a Métis, Pierre Desnomme who Southesk calls Pierre Numme (Denoummee), joined them at the HBC post at Fort Ellice on the Assiniboine River, near present-day St. Lazare, Manitoba. Southesk described him as “a quaint-looking oldish man, with a dark, bony, French-Indian face, and long black hair.” His eyes were so weak that he wore “huge goggles made of wire and glass, which have a strange effect, throwing a dash of the pedantic into his rough and hunter-like appearance.”² He says that Pierre: “Wears leather trousers which have become like varnished mahogany from stains and hard usage, a blue cotton shirt, and a dark blue woollen, mushroom-topped, lowland Scotch bonnet such as I remember common in Forfarshire, in my boyhood but it has red and white chequers round the headpiece and Pierre has added a glazed leather peak. ...He seems a good-natured fellow and is said to bear a high character.” (pp. 53-54).

Pierre Desnomme Sr. was married to Magdeliene Deschamps dite Amyotte before 1836. Their children were:

- Paul, born 1836, married Marie Therese Desmarais.
- François Xavier, born 1838, married Marguerite Gouin.
- Betsy, born 1840, married Marcel Desjarlais.
- Pierre, born 1846, died before 1885.
- Catherine, born 1847, married Charles Racette.
- Josephite, born 1851, married Louis Pelletier dit Racette.
- Michel, born 1857 and died before 1885.

Southesk relates that Pierre Sr. “put an extravagant value on his services and I was obliged to promise him the immense pay of £25 for one month, and so on in proportion for any further period—the term of service to be only six weeks, failing a new and separate agreement (p. 52).” Southesk paid Pierre off at Fort Carlton, besides his wages he gave him a gun, ammunition, sugar and tea.

Family Scrip:

Desnomme, Antoine; address: Touchwood; claim no. 681; born: 23 April, 1880 at Moose Jaw; father: Xavier Desnomme (Métis); mother: Marguerite Gouin (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 522.

¹ At the age of 32, James Carnegie, the 9th Earl of Southesk, travelled to Canada from his native Scotland in 1859, after being advised that it would improve his health that had deteriorated following the death of his wife. He wrote that the reason for his journey was to, "travel in some part of the world where good sport could be met with among the larger animals, and where, at the same time, I might recruit my health by an active open-air life in a healthy climate." The Earl travelled though the United States to St. Paul, Minnesota and crossed the prairies, hunting buffalo along the way.

² Southesk, James Carnegie. *Saskatchewan and the Rocky Mountains: A diary and narrative of travel, sport, and adventure during a journey through the Hudson's Bay Company's territories, in 1859 and 1860.* Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas, 1874:

Desnomme, Marguerite; for her deceased children; claim no. 474; Norbert, born: 1872 at Touchwood; died: March, 1874; Louise, born: 1874 at Swift Current; died: 10 June, 1881; Isidore, born: 1876 near Moose Jaw; died: July, 1880; address: Touchwood; father: Xavier Desnomme (Métis); mother: Marguerite Gouin (Métis and deponent); heir: their father: Xavier Desnomme; scrip cert.: form F, no. 88 for Norbert; scrip cert.: form F, no. 90 for Louis; scrip cert.: form F. no. 92 for Isodore.

Desnomme, Marie; for her deceased brother, Edouard Gouin; claim no. 1394; born: 1883 at Edmonton; died: 1894 at St. Peter's Mission, Montana; address: Chateau, Montana; father: Augustin Gouin (Métis); mother: Emilie Munro (Métis); heirs: Marie Desnomme, scrip cert.: form D, no. 1370 for \$60.00; Rosy Gouin; Betsy Gouin; Mary Madeleine Gouin

Chartrand, Philomène; address: Pine Creek; claim no. 257; born: 28 April, 1877 at Qu'Appelle; father: William Fagnant (Métis); mother: Marguerite Desnomme (Métis); married: 1896 to Michel Chartrand; scrip cert.: form E, no. 2893.

Desnomme, Mary; address: Chateau County, Montana; claim no. 1396; born: 1 November, 1881 at Prince Albert; mother: Emilie Munro (Métis); father: Augustin Gouin (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 988.

Racette, Charles; heir to his deceased children: Julienne, born: 1880 at Fort Qu'Appelle; died: 13 October, 1886; Marie Louise, born: 3 October 1882 at Fort Qu'Appelle; died: September, 1899; address: LeBret; father: Charles Racette (Métis and deponent); mother: Catherine Desnomme (Métis); Julienne, scrip cert.: form F, no. 168; Marie Louise, form F, no. 170; claim no. 627.

Racette, Charles; for his minor daughter, Philomene Racette; address: Fort Qu'Appelle; born: winter, 1886 at File Hills; father: Charles Racette (Métis and deponent); mother: Catherine Desnomme (Métis); claim no. 1117.

Racette, Pierre; address: Le Bret; born: 12 August, 1877 at Moose Jaw; father: Charles Racette (Métis); mother: Catherine Desnomme (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 542; file ref. 731159; claim no. 712.

Racette, Madeleine; address: Fort Qu'Appelle; born: 25 July, 1874 at Fort Qu'Appelle; father: Charles Racette (Métis); mother: Catherine Desnomme (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 316; claim no. 403.

Racette, Monique; address: Fort Qu'Appelle born: 15 March, 1870 at Qu'Appelle; father: Charles Racette (Métis); mother: Catherine Desnomme (Métis); scrip for \$240.00; file ref. 1911771; claim no. 1307.



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