

## Goulet, Roger. (1867-1946)

By Lawrence J. Barkwell

Métis educator Roger Goulet was born on January 14, 1867 at Pembina, Red River, the son of Elzéar Goulet and Helene Jerome. His family came to Manitoba following the tragic death of his father, Elzéar Goulet in the aftermath of the Red River Resistance in 1870. He was educated at the College de Saint-Boniface. He then received a BA and MA from the University of Manitoba. He married Lumina Philomène Gauthier<sup>1</sup>, in 1896. They had eleven children.

Roger was eloquent in English and French, and had a good understanding of several other languages, including Cree and Saulteaux. In 1900, he became the inspector of bilingual schools for Manitoba and principal of the *l'École Normale de Saint Boniface*. In 1916, when the bilingual Normal School was closed and the bilingual school system abolished, he was named public school inspector for the province, a position he held until 1932 when he retired for health reasons. He was the President of the Manitoba Educational Association in 1910-1911. He was a member of the *Société Historique de Saint-Boniface* and *Bon Parler Français*. He served as President of the *l'Union nationale métisse St. Joseph du Manitoba* (1909), and the *St. Jean Baptiste Society of St. Boniface*.

He was also an historian producing the reports: "Report Respecting Claims by Half-Breeds." *Canada Sessional Papers*, 12 January 1887; and, "Les Métis français dans l'Ouest canadien." Congrès de Québec, *Le Devoir*, juin 1912. He died at Montreal, Quebec on 31 January 1946.



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<sup>1</sup> Lumina Gauthier was the youngest of fourteen children born to Québec immigrants Jean-Baptiste Gauthier and Rosalie Germain. The Gauthier family was the first French-Canadian family to settle in la Petite Pointe-des-Chênes (Lorette). Their home was the first school house and her mother the first rural school teacher in the parish.