

Joseph Pierre Pelletier *dit* Assiniboine, (1791-1851)

Joseph was born in Rupert's Land in 1791. He was the son of Antoine Pelletier and a Saulteaux Indian woman named Marguerite. He was also the half-brother of Peter "Bostonais" Pangman, Marguerite's son with Peter Pangman Senior. Joseph married Genevieve Hallett (born 1795) at Fort Pelly. They had eleven children together.

Joseph was involved in the battle of Seven Oaks in 1816. Joseph fought on behalf of the North West Company, in an effort to drive the Selkirk Settlers out of the Canadian west. Joseph is noted as one of the leading Bois-Brûlés, therefore it is likely that he was part of the small force led by Cuthbert Grant that attacked the force of Settlers and took over Assiniboia.

Lieutenant Coltman's investigative report on the Battle of Seven Oaks states:

The depositions of Joseph Pelletier dit Assiniboine and Jean Baptiste Marseillais Half-Breeds, who were present at the battle, but who have since made their submission to the Earl of Selkirk, and are either in the service or living under the protection of the colony, and were examined at his Lordship's instance, agree generally in the foregoing (Haydon's) account of the affray, except only as to Hayden's statement of the first shot being fired on the side of the Half-Breeds, which they positively deny; and both state, that before any shot was fired on the side of the Half-Breeds, one had been fired at Boucher, which passed him so close as to stun, and cause him to fall off his horse; and Pelletier that a second was fired at an Indian, after which the action became general on each side; that after about three discharges the colonists began to give way, but the battle continued between individuals.¹

Joseph and Genevieve lived in St. Boniface for a number of years, and are noted in the Red River Census starting in 1829. They had settled in Grantown by 1835, and were enumerated again in the Red River Census in 1840. Joseph and Genevieve later moved to Pembina, Dakota Territory where he died in 1851.



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¹ Coltman, W. B. "Report of the Special Commissioner Relative to the Disturbances in Indian Territories of British North America." Quebec: June 30, 1818: 152-250. In *Papers Relating to the Red River Settlement*. Ottawa: House of Commons, July 12, 1819: 187.