

Riel's Supporters 1869-70: Personalities described in Jean-Baptiste Laderoute's Dicte (1913)

Jean-Baptiste Laderoute was born on October 1, 1837 at St. Vital, the Métis son of Jean-Baptiste Ladéroute and Josèphite Larocque. Jean-Baptiste was the grandson of Jean Philbert Ladéroute (b. 1778) and Marguerite Pontbriand *dite* Sansregret. He married Marguerite St. Arnaud¹ (1845-1921) on February 4, 1862, at St. Norbert, Manitoba. She was born on April 6, 1845 on the Mackenzie River. She was the daughter of Bonaventure St. Arnaud and Geneviève Contré. They had twelve children together. After 1870, Ladéroute moved to Olga, North Dakota and became a permanent resident there.

Jean-Baptiste Laderoute reports that he, Le Grand Louison Larivière and Ambroise Lépine stopped Joseph Alfred Norbert Provencher and Captain D.R. Cameron from William McDougall's party from proceeding past the barricade at La Salle. André Nault reports: Around the middle of the day arrived Captain Cameron and wanted them to remove the barrier, but André Neault and Benjamin Neault took the horse by the bridle and Cameron had enough, fearful and shaking like a leaf he was taken to Théophile Jetté and kept in view. Joseph Delorme was the jail keeper

Jean-Baptiste Laderoute says that he went with Benjamin Lagimodiere and others from St. Norbert, St. François Xavier, and Ste. Anne des Chenes went to occupy Upper Fort Garry. He says that when they arrived the doors were all open. They then closed the big south door and the north door where the cannon fortifications were. They left the east door facing St. Boniface open. Laderoute says that Baptiste Berard was looking after them, sharing his sugar and tea.

Chrysostome Laderoute was born on January 16, 1848 in St. Boniface, the Métis son of Jean-Baptiste Ladéroute and Josèphite Larocque. He married Christine Larocque (b. 1848), the daughter of Charles Larocque and Cecile Laberge on April 26, 1870 in St. Boniface. Cecile was the sister of Cyrile Larocque. J.B. Laderoute says that after Riel had sent men to stop McDougall at Pembina they sent Chrysostome Laderoute, Louis Blondeau, Cyrile Laroque and others to the La Salle River to build a barricade.

Jean Laderoute reports that after Schultz's store was captured by the Métis a number of men were sent to guard it; these were Chrysostome Laderoute, Bidaux Delorme and Baptiste Arcand. As it was cold they started a fire. The stoves were not working and had to be shaken. The pipes fell; they turned out to be filled with guns and ammunition. If the stoves had worked they would have all been dead and the house destroyed. There was enough powder found for that to happen.

Philbert Laderoute was born on March 2, 1824 in St. Boniface, the son of Jean Philbert Laderoute and Marguerite Pontbriand *dite* Sansregret. He married Julie Lépine, the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Lépine and Julie Henry. He was the uncle of Jean-Baptiste and

¹ The folk tales collected by Marguerite and her husband's journal of events at Red River during the Resistance were passed down to Celina Ladéroute Perron (1873-1963), Marie Anne Josephine Perron (1915-2001) and finally to Marie-Louise Perron who had the memoirs published (see below); and reprinted one of the folk tales, "L'origine des canards gris" in *Métis Legacy Vol. II: Michif Culture, Heritage, and Folkways* (L. Barkwell, L. Dorion and A. Hourie (Eds.) Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute and Pemmican Publications, 2006: 46-54).

Chrytome Laderoute. His wife, Julie Lépine, was the sister of Jean-Baptiste, Maxime, and Ambroise Dydime Lépine.

Laderoute then reported that Ambroise Lépine, André Nault and Philbert Laderoute went to Pembina to stop William McDougall.

Louis Blondeau III was born circa 1843 at Red River, the son of Louis Blondeau II and Joseph Desfonds. He married Philomene Martel, the daughter of Joseph Martel and Marie Ritchot. He was the nephew of Simon Blondeau. Simon Blondeau was born on the Pembina River, the son of Louis Blondeau I and Marie Louise Laframboise *dite* Franche. Louis Blondeau worked as an interpreter for the North West Company at Fort des Prairies in 1804 and at Cumberland House in 1815-16. Louis Blondeau was present during the aftermath of the Battle of Seven Oaks.

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Simon Blondeau married Françoise Desjarlais, the daughter of Antoine Desjarlais and Marie Catherine Allery, in 1850 at St. Boniface. Their son, John was married to the Augustin Brabant's daughter Caroline. Simon worked for his father-in-law Antoine Desjarlais at Fort Desjarlais in the Souris River Valley in the 1850s. His nephew Louis Blondeau Jr. was one of the men who manned the barricades on the La Salle River to prevent the entry of Canadian government officials in October of 1869. Simon Blondeau was present at the Battle of the Grand Coteau in 1851.

Johnny Desmarais. John was born in July of 1841 at St. François Xavier, the son of Joseph Desmarais (b. 1812) and Adelaide Clermont. He married Rose Gervais in 1864 and married Helene Gosselin in 1869. Helene and John lived first at St. François Xavier then at the Battlefords, Fort Walsh, Wood Mountain and Batoche. Desmarais lived on lot 65 in Batoche. He had thirteen acres under cultivation but was primarily a hunter and freighter. John was a member of Captain Daniel Gariépy's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. The Provisional Council minutes of April 17 show an order for Desmarais to be provided with a cow.² Desmarais fled to North Dakota after 1885 and lived in the Belcourt/Dunsieth area.

Jean-Baptiste Arcand. Jean-Baptiste was born at St. François Xavier December 20, 1840, the son of Joseph Arcand and Marie Vestro *dite* Gesson. He was employed with the HBC as a Middleman from 1864 to 1866, and as Freeman employee at Red River from 1866 to 1868.³ He married Nancy McKay and settled at St. Laurent on the South Saskatchewan.

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² Canada Sessional Papers, "Minutes of the Provisional Government, April 1885." 1886, Vol. 13, (No. 43), pp. 41-49.

³ HBCA, B.239/g/104/105/107-108.

Baptiste was involved in the 1885 Resistance at Duck Lake with Dumont. His name appears as # 253 on Philippe Garnot's list of Resistance participants.

Cyrile Larocque born 1846 at St. Vital, the son of Charles Larocque (b. 1815 at RR) and Cecile Laberge. Cyrile married Isabelle Larence, the daughter of Basile Larence and Agathe (Iroquois) on October 19, 1869 at St. Boniface. J.B. Laderoute says that after Riel had sent men to stop McDougall at Pembina they sent Chrysostome Laderoute, Louis Blondeau, Cyrile Laroque and others to the La Salle River to build a barricade.

Laventure (Bonaventure) Parisien. Bonaventure was born circa 1808, the son of Claude Bonaventure Parisien and Isabelle «Lizette» (Saulteaux). Laventure married Marguerite (Saulteaux) who was born 1810 at Red Lake. He lived at St. Norbert and died there in 1873. Laderoute reports that Laventure was in William Dease's party that went to meet with Riel at the barricade. He said: "La Venture Parisien was one of them wild and untamed, worse than an Indian with different colored feathers in his hair—real savage ways as signs of warfare."

François Parisien. François was born on September 13, 1828, the oldest son of Laventure Parisien and Marguerite (Saulteaux). He was first married to Geneviève Lavallee *dite* Plante then married Anney Sahys, the daughter of François Sayis and Marguerite (Saulteaux) on January 10, 1860 at St. Norbert. He was enumerated as a hunter, Family # 15 during the 1850 Pembina census.

Jean-Baptiste Laderoute said that François Parisien arrived and offered his services to Riel when they had been warned that the people of Portage la Prairie were on their way to seize Upper Fort Garry.

Le Grand Louison Lariviere was born on March 6, 1815 and died December 12, 1910 at Olga, North Dakota. He married Marie Lambert, the daughter of Antoine Lambert and Marie (Saulteaux). She sold the land where Riel House sits to the Riel's.

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Ambroise Lépine (1840-1923) Ambroise was born in St. Vital, he was the son the son of Jean-Baptiste Berard *dit* Lépine and Julia Henry (Métisse). He was the brother of Jean-Baptiste Lépine (b. 1824) and Maxime Lépine (b. 1837).

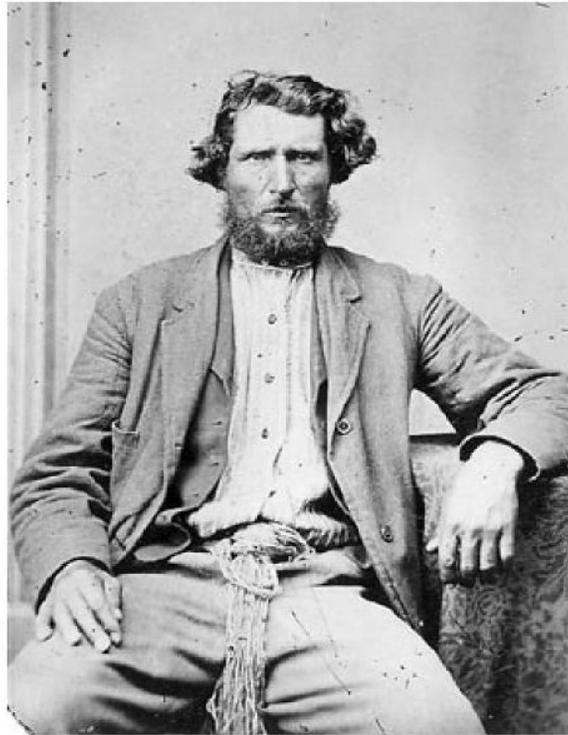
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Ambroise married Cecile Marion (1842 - 1908), the daughter of François Marion and Angelique Deschamps Moreau. Their children were Albert, James, Louis Gonzague, Narcisse, Cleophine, Edmond (George), Marie, Marguerite and adopted son Pierre Cadotte the son of Joseph Cadotte and Mariejean Emma (Cree). Cecile passed away on 22 May 1908 in Forget, Saskatchewan. Ambroise died on June 8, 1923 at St. Boniface.

From the beginning of the Red River Resistance, he was Louis Riel's military lieutenant and chief enforcer. He led the armed party that ordered Lieutenant Governor McDougall out of the settlement in October 1869. He was prominent in the surrenders of the Schultz Canadian Party in December 1869 and of the Boulton party in February 1870.

His appearance in 1870 was described by Roderick MacBeath as: "a man of magnificent physique, standing fully six feet three and built in splendid proportion, straight as an arrow, with hair of raven blackness, large aquiline nose and eyes of piercing brilliance; a man of prodigious strength, a skilled roughrider. ..."



Lépine was subsequently arrested and tried for the murder of Thomas Scott in 1874. He was found guilty by a jury, but was granted an amnesty by the Governor-General of Canada with the provision that he lose his civil rights (five years banishment from Her Majesty's Dominions).

Later Ambroise worked as a freighter. Mr. John Grover from the Neepawa area described a Red River cart train that he saw being loaded for a western trip in 1878:

"This train of carts was in charge of Ambrose Lépine, a big, burly, French Métis, who had been one of Louis Riel's chief lieutenants in the fracas of 1870. There were about fifteen carts, 800 lbs. being a load, and were hauled by an ox or Indian pony, and as many more loose animals were taken along to replace the ones hitched up, when tired, all in charge of three or four men on horse-back.... These carts were built entirely of wood ... and as they were never greased you could hear them long before you could see them.... The freight rate for these trains was one cent per mile per hundred pounds so that a sack of flour selling in Winnipeg then at \$2.00 would cost \$3.00 at Gladstone."⁴

⁴ John Grover, "An Englishman Who Stayed," *The Grain Growers' Guide*, August 1, 1926, p.20.

Lépine died at the St. Boniface General Hospital on 8 June 1923. He is buried in the churchyard of the St. Boniface Cathedral next to Riel. He is commemorated by Lépine Avenue in Winnipeg.

Ambroise Lépine appeared in the 1889 Exposition Universelle (Paris Worlds Fair) with Buffalo Bill Cody. Maxime Goulet, along with Maxime Lépine, Michel Dumas and Jules Marion were presented as French-Canadian trappers with teams of Eskimo sled dogs. Lépine left St. Boniface on March 30, 1889, with Maxime Goulet, Michel Dumas and Jules Marion on the way to the Paris World's Fair to take part in the Wild West Show. They took two Red River Carts, two trains of dogs and a buffalo gun. They built a Métis log cabin at the Fair.

In the finale at the Wild West Show, their log cabin was set on fire and they were depicted as trappers under attack by Indians who are rescued by Buffalo Bill and his men. The Wild West Show took two Métis dog teams, twenty buffalo and 200 horses with them to Paris.

André Nault. André Nault was born on April 21, 1830 at Point Douglas, the son of Amable Nault (b. 1798) and Josephite Lagimodière. André was married to Anastasie Landry, the daughter of Joseph Landry and Genevieve Lalonde. Amable Nault arrived at Red River in 1825. André was present with Riel when he stopped Webb's surveyors on October 11, 1869.

André Nault reports: Around the middle of the day Captain Cameron arrived and wanted them to remove the barrier but André Neault and Benjamin Neault took the horse by the bridle and Cameron had enough, fearful and shaking like a leaf he was taken to Théophile Jetté and kept in view. Joseph Delorme was the jail keeper. Louis Riel ordered Lépine a troop of twenty men to take Provencher and Cameron south and to expel the Lieutenant Governor who had settled at fort Pembina.

Laderoute then reports that Ambroise Lépine, André Nault and Philbert Laderoute went to Pembina to stop William McDougall.

Benjamin Nault. Benjamin was born on June 24, 1832 at St. Boniface the son of Amable Nault (b. 1798) and Josephite Lagimodière. Benjamin married Isabelle Hamelin, the daughter of Solomon Hamelin and Isabelle Vandal. Benjamin was present with Riel when he stopped Webb's surveyors on October 11, 1869.

Romain Nault. Romain was born in 1838 in St. Boniface the son of Amable Nault (b. 1798) and Josephite Lagimodière. Romain married Philomene Landry the daughter of Joseph Landry and Genevieve Lalonde in 1859. Romain was present with Riel when he stopped Webb's surveyors on October 11, 1869.

Prosper Nault. Prosper was present with Riel when he stopped Webb's surveyors on October 11, 1869.

Benjamin Lagimodière. Born January 15, 1811 at Fort Pembina, the son of Jean-Baptiste Lagimodière and Marie-Anne Gaboury. He married Angelique Carriere, the daughter of André Carriere and Angelique Dion or Lyon in 1834 at St. Boniface.

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Baptiste Berard was born circa 1825 at Fort des Prairies, the son of Louis Berard (b. 1794) and Catherine Hughes the Métis daughter of James Hughes and Nan-Touche Corbeau. He married Helene Martin, the daughter of Pierre Martin dit Lavallee and Marie Lambert. They had seven children between 1850 and 1863. Brother-in-law to Paul Blondin.

Paul Blondin, son of Paul Blondin and Esther Robillard, he married Celestine Berard daughter of Jean-Baptiste Berard and Helen Martin *dite* Lavallee.

Jean-Baptiste dit Bidou Delorme (1832-1894) Baptiste was born at Norway House, the son of Baptiste Delorme (b. 1781) and his wife Catherine. He married Marguerite Pepin, daughter of Antoine Pepin and Marguerite Davis, on 8 January 1855 at Pembina. This was a hunting family and moved a great deal.

They lived at Pembina, St. Boniface, St. François Xavier, Wood Mountain, Carlton, and Touchwood Hills.

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Children:

- Sara married to a Vermette.
- Jean, born October 1856, died December 1856.
- Marie, born December 24, 1857, married Francois Lariviere.
- David, born February 16, 1861, married Auxille LaFrance.
- Julienne, born June 30, 1863, married John William fiddler.
- Marcel, born June 30, 1863, died August 1863.
- Martial, born March 16, 1865, died November 1865.
- Edouard, born September 30, 1866, died October 1866.
- Françoise, born October 1, 1867, married Charles Lavallee then James Fiddler.
- Roger, born April 13, 1870, married Helene Lavallee.
- Adele, born May 20, 1872, married a Chabot.
- Marguerite, born June 3, 1874, married Martin Bouthaux.
- Elise, born May 9, 1874, married Andrew Stelia.
- Joseph, born April 15, 1877.

Jean-Baptiste Tourond (1838) Baptiste was born June 1, 1838 at St. Boniface, the son of Joseph Tourond⁵ and Rosalie Pontbriand *dite* Laderoute (b. 1816). He married Angélique Delorme (Métis), the daughter of Joseph Delorme and Brigitte Plouf dit Villebrun (Métis) in 1861. They lived and farmed at St. Norbert on lot 42.

On October 11, 1869, Baptiste was part of Riel's group who stopped Colonel Dennis and crew from surveying on Métis land. Baptiste represented St. Norbert at the Convention of November 1869, and the Convention of Forty January 26, 1870; he then served on Riel's Red River Council in 1870. Baptiste voted in favour of an armed force to repulse the Fenian invasion and was elected second captain of troops from La Pointe Coupée on October 7, 1871. Tourond's wife Angélique died, and on October 21, 1889, he married for a second time to Regina Allard, the daughter of Joseph Allard and Julie Langevin.

Tourond was among those who, on 11 October 1869, stopped the Canadian survey crew from trespassing on settlement land in St. Vital. He was one of the original members of Le Comité National des Métis de la Rivière Rouge, and, as a delegate of St. Norbert parish, he attended the 'Convention of Twenty-four,' which began on November 16 in the Court House at Fort Garry. Tourond continued to represent St. Norbert in La Grande Convention/Convention of Forty, and the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia. Almost immediately after the formation of the province, Tourond was among the group organized by Rev. Ritchot and Joseph Dubuc to lay claim to land along Rivière-aux-Rats for a new parish — to forestall any disallowance of such settlement expansion by anticipated Canadian government surveys. The settlement proved successful, and later became known as St-Pierre-Jolys.

Baptiste Normand was born circa 1811, the son of François Normand and Françoise Belanger. He married Louise Carrière the daughter of André Carrière and Angelique Dion *dite* Lyon. Baptiste and his younger brother Michel Normand lived in St. Norbert. Laderoute reports that after Bishop Taché reported that a settlement was at hand there was only Riel, Baptiste Normand and Josai Gagnon left at the Fort.

Old Josai Gagnon. Joseph Gagnon was born in 1814, the son of Joseph Gagnon and Josephite Lapierre. He married Marie Pelletier, the daughter of Antoine Pelletier and Marguerite (Saulteaux). They are enumerated at Pembina in the 1850 census as family # 120, he gives his occupation as hunter. He later married Suzanne Bourre at Lebrét in 1874. Laderoute reports that after Bishop Tache reported that a settlement was at hand there was only Riel, Baptiste Normand and Josai Gagnon left at the Fort.

André Jerome dit St. Mathe. André Jerome was the grandson of Pierre Jerome and a Chippewa Cree woman by the name of Virginia. Pierre was a Cree interpreter for the North West Company at Fort Carlton, he died there in November 28, 1821. André Jerome's father, Martin Jerome *dite* St. Matthe or l' P'chi St. Matthe born in 1799, was also a company interpreter. After his father's death he moved to the Red river Settlement

⁵ Joseph Tourond, according to family lore, "had come with his brother from the neighbourhood of Castle Tourond in France to homestead along the Red River near St. Boniface." He was first married to Charlotte Gladu.

and married there. He was a Pembina buffalo hunter then worked as a freighter in the annual train of Red River carts from Winnipeg to St. Paul, Minnesota, during the years 1845 to 1870, the last year of the cart drive.

The deposition of André Nault, one of Riel's lieutenants, suggests that André Jerome *dit* St. Matte and Damase Harrison were guards of Thomas Scott in Upper Fort Garry and that they insisted on a Council of War or court martial, because otherwise they would shoot him themselves. After the court Martial Scott was shot by a Provisional Government firing squad.

André Jerome was born on December 14, 1829 in St. Boniface, Manitoba, the son of Martin Jerome and Angelique Letendré. He was one of seven brothers. His father later remarried in 1831 to Elizabeth Wilkie the daughter of Alexandre Wilkie. André was baptized on 15 Dec 1829 in St. Boniface, Manitoba. André married Marguerite Gosselin, the daughter of Antoine Gosselin and Marie Roy, and they had nine children. The family appeared on both the 1850 and 1860 census in Pembina. He participated in O'Donoghue's "Fenian Raid" in October of 1871, at the Hudson's Bay post north of Pembina. He was arrested in November 1871 and was imprisoned in the Stone Fort (Lower fort Garry).



He was subsequently acquitted of "feloniously and unlawfully levying war against Her Majesty," in the spring of 1872 in Winnipeg. He moved in 1872 to Kittson County, Minnesota. *He was recognized as the first settler in Kittson County.* He appeared in the census of both June 1880 and 1900 in Township 162, Kittson County, Minnesota. He appeared in the census in Apr 1910 in Hill Township, Kittson County. A Jerome family history records:

André Jerome *dit* St. Mathe, though about 3/4 Cree and Ojibway and 1/4 French Canadian, had blue eyes—as recorded by Joseph Bouvette, editor of the *Kittson County Enterprise*, who interviewed him in 1906. Moreover, photographs reveal that unlike an Indian he had sufficient facial hair to wear a full beard and long drooping mustache, which must have been striking in his elder years, when his hair and beard were pure white against a dark complexion. He was listed on the 1850 census of Pembina, Minnesota Territory; the 1860 census of Pembina, Dakota Territory; and on the 1870 Red River Census in Manitoba, that recorded him and his family as living in the parish of Ste. Agathe, which comprehended settlements on both sides of the border, such as Pembina and the later Emerson. His baptismal name is sometimes translated as “Andrew.”

Elzear Goulet. Elzéar Goulet was born on November 18, 1836 at St. Boniface, the son of Alexis Goulet and Josephte Siveright. He married Hélène Jérôme *dite* Saint-Matte, the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Jérôme *dit* Saint-Matte and Josephte Courchene on March 8, 1859 at Pembina. Elzéar and Hélène Goulet had six children. Goulet worked as a mail carrier from Pembina to the Red River from 1860 to 1869 and became an American citizen. Goulet joined Louis Riel’s forces at Upper fort Garry in 1869 and became second-in-command of the Métis militia under Ambroise-Didyme Lépine.

On September 13, 1870, Elzéar Goulet was sitting in a Winnipeg saloon, undoubtedly enjoying a drink after having finished some business on the Fort Garry side of the Red River, when someone accused him of shooting Thomas Scott. A *mêlée* soon broke out and Elzéar somehow escaped from the hotel, a mob of angry men in hot pursuit. They chased him for quite some time until Elzéar, obviously fearing for his life, plunged into the Red River, hoping to swim across it for the safety of St. Boniface. He never made it. Conflicting accounts suggest he either succumbed to the river's current, was stricken with a cramp, or what is most likely, the men who had given chase pelted him with stones until one hit him in the head, knocking him unconscious and drowning him.

Lieutenant Governor Adams G. Archibald did order an investigation into Goulet’s murder and sent the investigators report dated September 27, 1870, to the federal Secretary of State for the Provinces.⁶ The report recommended that arrest warrants be issued for three parties, two for feloniously causing Goulet’s death. However, a local judge, Johnson, reviewed the investigation and recommended that the Lieutenant Governor not issue warrants.

Antoine Marcelin (Ste. Agathe) Antoine Marcelin est né en 1842 à Pont-Château, dans le comté de Soulanges, au sud-ouest de Montréal. On ignore à peu près tout de son enfance, sauf qu’il a le goût des voyages et de l’aventure. Il vient tout juste d’avoir 18 ans quand il part pour la Californie. Il y habite quelques années, quoiqu’il soit impossible de préciser s’il y séjourne jusqu’à son établissement à Victoria en 1866. Le jeune homme s’y livre vraisemblablement au commerce. On le retrouve à Saint-Albert, près d’Edmonton, quelques années plus tard, et on sait de façon certaine qu’il vit là pendant trois ans. Puis,

⁶ Canada Sessional Papers (1871), 34 Victoria (No. 20), p. 1- 5, 52-54.

il se lance sur la piste Carlton afin d'aller tenter fortune au Manitoba. La piste passe d'ailleurs à peu de distance du lac Muskeg, où il reviendra s'installer deux décennies plus tard. Au Manitoba, il se réserve un homestead, dont il obtient les lettres patentes en 1874 ou 1875.⁷ «À la mi-janvier 1890, Antoine Marcelin arrive à Duck Lake avec son épouse, sa fille adoptive, Aldina, et deux autres hommes. Après quelques semaines de repos, la petite troupe complète le voyage vers la réserve indienne en démocrate et en traîneau.»(2) Plus tard, Antoine Marcelin établit le village qui porte encore son nom, mais en 1890, il ouvre un magasin dans la réserve du lac Muskeg et devient traiteur de fourrures.

Joseph McMullen (McMillan) was born on December 4, 1849 in St Boniface (d: October 5, 1923 in St James). He was the son of William McMullen or McMillan born 1806 in the district of Fort Edmonton (d: September 29, 1903 in the home of his son Patrice McMillan in St James) and Marguerite “Margaret” Dease (b. 1820 at Fort Alexander) She was the daughter of John Warren Dease Sr. and Genevieve “Jenny” Beignet.

Jean-Baptiste Laderoute reports that it was Joseph McMillan that warned Riel’s men that the people of Portage la Prairie were on their way to seize Upper Fort Garry.

Joseph married Appoline “Pauline” Bruce (b: November 27, 1851 in St Boniface) on February 21, 1870 in St Boniface. She was the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Bruce and Catherine Perreault, the sister of John Bruce the first President of the Métis Provisional government in 1869.



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⁷ <http://musee.societehisto.com/antoine-marcelin-n372-t270.html> Musee virtuel francophone de la Saskatchewan.