

Samuel Cunningham, M.L.C. (1848-1919)

Samuel Cunningham was born at Lake St. Anne's (Alberta) in 1848, the son¹ of an Irish-Metis father, John Patrick Cunningham and a Metis mother, Rosalie L'Hirondelle. He took one year of schooling at the Edmonton Mission and at age twenty-one began farming and operating his own fur-trading business. His father was an HBC agent and his grandfather Patrick Cunningham had been postmaster at Churchill Factory. His brother Rev. Edward Cunningham was parish priest of Onion Lake. On May 19, 1880 Sam signed the Metis Petition from Residents of Edmonton asking that they be provided with land scrip.

Sam was a member of the Northwest Territories Council from 1885 to 1888. He was involved in the signing of Treaty Eight; he was the interpreter for the Cree during the negotiations. In 1885, he was a Captain in the St. Albert Mounted Rifles, a part of the Militia home guard.

On November 22, 1869, Samuel married Susan (Suzanne) Gray (b. 1845) in 1869. She was the daughter of Joseph Gray and Suzanne Calliou at St. Albert. The couple had nine children, and one adopted son (Joseph Belcourt). On November 7, 1898 at Lesser Slave Lake Samuel married Catherine Willier, the daughter of Baptiste Willier and Marie Courteoreille. In 1885 Samuel was elected to the Legislative Council of the Northwest Territories by acclamation. He thus joined Pascal Breland as one of two Metis on the council. He served as a Justice of the Peace in St. Albert and in 1885 was leader of the Mounted Rifles. Later, he moved to Grouard where he served as the first town mayor. Samuel died on January 14, 1919 at Grouard, Alberta.

Cunningham, Samuel - Concerning his claim as a head of family - Born, April 8, 1848 at Lac Ste. Anne - Address, St. Albert - Father, John Cunningham, (Métis) - Mother, Rosalie L'Hyronnelle, (Métis) - Married, November 22, 1869 at St. Albert to Suzanne Grey - Children living, five (names on declaration) - Children deceased, three - Scrip for \$160 - Claim 536

Cunningham, Samuel; heir to his deceased children; claim no. 1796; Rachel, born: 14 March, 1874 at St. Albert ; died: 19 March, 1874 at St. Albert; John Alfred, born: 6 May, 1875 at St. Albert ; died: 28 June, 1881 at St. Albert; Marie Rose, born: 21 February, 1881 at St. Albert; died: 20 December, 1881 at St. Albert; address: Lesser Slave Lake; father: Samuel Cunningham (Métis and deponent); mother: Suzanne Grey (Métis); scrip cert.: form F, no. 614; scrip cert.: form F, no. 616; scrip cert.: form F, no. 618

Cunningham, Samuel; for his daughter, Florestine Cunningham; claim no. 1795; address: Lesser Slave Lake; born: 24 July, 1885 at St. Albert; father: Samuel

¹ The third of eleven children.

Cunningham (Métis and deponent); mother: Suzanne Grey (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 1092

Cunningham, Junior, Samuel; address: Lac St. Anne; claim no. 2810; born: 20 January, 1871 at St. Albert; father: Samuel Cunningham (Métis); mother: Suzanne Grey (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 2124



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