

## **Jean-Baptiste Le Comrade de Mandeville.** (b. 1798)

Baptiste Le Comrade de Mandeville was the son of a Frenchman from Normandy and his Dene wife. Jean-Baptiste and his family members were the founders of the Metis settlement at Fort Resolution. In 1833; Mandeville helped to build Fort Reliance at the east end of Great Slave Lake near the mouth of the Lockhart River. It was at the same spot that the Oblates later established the St. Vincent de Paul Mission. King Beaulieu, a son of François Beaulieu, later ran the post. Jean-Baptiste's son Angele signed Treaty #8 as a Chief or Headman. Another son, William is said to have started the Little Buffalo River Settlement. Baptiste, a French Metis joined the first Franklin expedition to the Arctic Ocean in 1820 as an interpreter and hunter.

Baptiste de Mandeville, apart from guiding Franklin, is a major player in one of the most important peace making events in Northern history. When Chiefs Edzo and Akaitcho met at Mesa Lake in 1825, it was Mandeville who brokered the peace. Although Mandeville was traveling with Akaitcho and his band, he was also a friend of the Dogrib chief Edzo. Without the intervention of Mandeville, it is possible that the meeting of Edzo and Akaitcho may have ended more tragically.

### *Reference*

McCarthy, Martha. *From the Great River to the Ends of the Earth*. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 1995.



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