

James Grant

James Grant was born on March 22, 1837 at St. Francois Xavier, the son of Cuthbert Grant and Marie McGillis. He married Josephite Helene Gariepy, born January 10, 1844, the daughter of François Gariepy and Helene Poitras on June 16, 1862 at Pembina. Like many Metis hunting and trading families they had children born at several locations across the plains.

Josette and James Grant had the following children:

- Mary, born 1867, died 1877 at Lebret.
- Marie Virginie, born 1871 at St. Joseph, Dakota Territory.
- Marie Florestine, born 1872 at St. François Xavier, died 1874 at St. Francois Xavier.
- Joseph Cuthbert, born 1874 at Wood Mountain, died 1874, age 23 at Qu'Appelle.
- Marie Josephine, born 1876 at Wood Mountain, died 1888 at age 11.
- Allyre, born 1878 at Wood Mountain.
- Marie Ernestine, born 1821 at Katepwe, died 1892 at age 11.
- Joseph Alfred, born 1883 at Katepwe, died 1897 at age 14.
- Clement Joseph, born 1886 at Lebret.

James Grant came west with his father Cuthbert Grant on the annual buffalo hunt. James Grant eventually settled at the east end of Lake Katepwe in the Qu'Appelle Valley. They came with horse drawn Red River carts, bringing about 50 horses, a few head of cattle, saws, axes, scythes, a wooden-beam walking plow and all their household items. In the summer James operated a caravan of Red River carts bringing supplies from Winnipeg to Troy and Fort Qu'Appelle. In the winter, after the railroad came through, he hauled freight by sleigh into Prince Albert for Archie McDonald, the HBC Factor at Fort Qu'Appelle. The route he used was over the Touchwood Trail, a trip which took six weeks.

In 1878 James Grant signed the petition of the Metis hunting band at Cypress Hills which requested a re-opening of the bison hunt between November 14th and February 15th each year and the granting of a Metis "reserve." They requested a 150-mile strip of land along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border in Manitoba and thence west. This strip was to be fifty miles wide from north to south.

Subsequently James Grant signed the September 2, 1880 petition from Peter LaPierre and other Metis of Qu'Appelle Settlement concerning Metis land claims that subsequently went unanswered by the government. This petition was addressed to the Marquis of Lorne, "This humble petition of Peter LaPierre, Simon Blondin, John Fisher, Alexander Fisher, John Simpson, Xavier Desnommé, and others, Halfbreeds of Qu'Appelle Settlement etc.



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