

Jean Baptiste Cadotte Jr. (1761-1818)

Jean Baptiste Cadotte Jr., Metis, born on October 25, 1761, in Sault Ste. Marie, the son of Jean Baptiste Cadotte Sr. and Anastasie Equawaice a daughter of Ojibwa chief Madjeckesiss. Cadotte Sr. became chief of a band of about 50 Ojibwa. Cadotte Jr. married Saugemauqua (Saulteaux) and they had four children.

He worked for the North West Company out of La Pointe, established a trading post at the junction of the Red Lake and Clearwater Rivers (Minnesota). This location is now called Sportsman's Park in Red Falls. He is with his wife Janette Piquette, Metis (-1850), lived at Red Lake Falls (Wisconsin) with their daughters, Marie Archange Cadotte (b-1797) and Archangle Cadotte (b-1798). David Thompson (1770-1857), of NWC, took shelter in that Post this year during a spring snow storm. David Thompson (1770-1857) wrote: "Mr Baptiste Cadotte was about 35 years of age, he was the son of a French gentlemen by a native woman, and married to a handsome native woman, also the daughter of a Frenchman. He has been educated in Lower Canada and spoke fluently his language with Latin, French and English."

Cadotte was indeed fluent in Latin, French, English and Ojibwa. About this time, Jean Baptiste Perrault (Perrot) records that a John Sayer Jr. had been ordered to go to the assistance of Mr. Cadotte who is subject to allowing himself to be overcome by drink. John Sayer Jr., a former *Coureur des Bois* of Fond du Lac, claimed being ill and asked his old friend, Jean Baptiste Perrault (Perrot), to go in his stead, giving him a letter for Cadotte. The letter instructed Cadotte to turn the post over to Jean Baptiste Perrault (Perrot). It would appear that this is the beginning of a conspiracy to remove Cadotte from the North West Company.

Jean Baptiste Cadotte Jr. remained a partner of the Company and, in 1801, still held 1/46 share. In 1803 he would be expelled from the company for alleged drunkenness. He basically represented the last of the *Coueurs des Bois*.

Cadotte then returned to Canada and starting in 1801 received a pension of £100, but this was discontinued in 1813 when he took an appointment as an interpreter for the Indian Department of Upper Canada.

Jean Baptiste and his brother Michel (b. 1864) were apparently coerced by the British at Drummond Island to be interpreters during the War of 1812, having been given the choice of doing that or remaining in confinement. They were present on October 5, 1813 at the battle of Moraviantown where Tecumseh was killed. Jean Baptiste was seriously wounded and received a British pension. His brother lost an arm in the fighting.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Coordinator of Metis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute