

Morin dit Comtois, Jean- Baptiste. (1834-1875)

Jean-Baptiste was born on November 21, 1834 at St. Boniface, the son of Antoine Morin (b. 1809) and Therese Larocque.¹ Baptiste married Nancy Delorme (b. 1841), on June 16, 1862 in Pembina. Nancy was the daughter of Joseph “Akkway” Delorme² and Isabelle Gourneau on June 16, 1862 at Pembina. Isabelle’s father was a counselor to Chiefs Little Shell II and III and her brother “Kar-yence” (Joseph Jr.) in turn was a counselor to Chief Little Shell III.³

Jean-Baptiste and Nancy were a buffalo-hunting family. Nancy writes in her scrip application: “My husband was a plains hunter and [we] had no residence of our own anywhere, we had to come in the summer in the Parish of St. Norbert where we used to reside before the transfer when we were with our family and property consisting of horses, carts, tent etc.” They had four children between 1865 and 1872, born at Red River, St. Joseph, and Wood Mountain. Nine of their children survived to adulthood. Jean-Baptiste was killed by the Sioux at St. Joseph Mountain on July 5, 1875.

Children:

Baptiste, born c. 1865, died 1888.

Roger, born c. 1867, died 1874 at Leroy.

Clemence, born c. 1869, died 1880 at Leroy.

Marie Rose, born December 14, 1872 at Wood Mountain, died May 19, 1885 at Olga.

Scrip affidavit for Morin, Nancy; born: Feb., 1846; widow of Baptiste Morin; father: Joseph Delorme (Métis); mother: Isabelle Gourneau (Métis); claim no: 2790; scrip no: 9937; date of issue: Feb. 9, 1878; amount: \$160.

The Indian Agent’s report of Jean Baptiste’s murder by Wapepa (Brave Bear) is attached below. (Copybook Letter No 459, Page 821.)

¹ Therese was the daughter of Joseph Larocque and Therese (Assiniboine)

² Joseph “Aughuhk-quay” Delorme. (1815-1874) Joseph dit “Akkway” was a grand son-in-law of chief Wild Rice. Sometime before 1836 he married Wild Rice’s grand-daughter Isabelle Gourneau. Isabelle was the daughter of Joseph Grenon (Gourneau) and Angelique Folle-Avoine. Their family was enumerated in the 1850 census at Pembina as family # 96. Joseph Auguhk-quay Delorme Sr. received annuities and scrip (Half Breed Scrip # 218) under the 1863 Red Lake and Pembina Treaties of 1863. In 1868 he took annuities for himself, two women and six children under Little Shell’s Band and in 1867 took annuities for himself, one woman and six children under Way-ke-ge-ke-zhick’s Band.

³ Counselors for Little Shell III in the 1890s [These men also served as counselors for Little Shell II: Ayse-sense]. Sas Swaine Poitras (67); Kug-kay-dway-wash-kung, William Davis (70), Paydway-walsh-kum, Louis Lenoir; Boin-ence Davis (73); Kar-yence Delorme (50), a son of Auguhk-quay; Sharlo Bottineau (68); Ossaotit, Francois Desmarais (55); Tchee-kee-tarn Parisien (68); Batees-shish Valley (58), son of Norbace Valley; Ahkee-win-nini, Alex Jannott (58); Tcheer-kuhk, Joseph Desmarais (56); Bayriss, Corbet Grant (55); Karn-nar-dah, Antoine Heneult (59); and Jean Batees Gorin (Champagne, 57).

U.S. Ind. Agt.

Copybook Letter No. 459, page 821 (STORY OF DELORME MASSACRE AND THAT
'BRAVE BEAR' the murderer IS IN THIS AGENCY)

Devils Lake Agency D.T.
February 18th 1878

Hon. Thomas VanEtten
U.S. Court Commissioner
Bismarck, D.T.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 7th inst. is received and in reply will state that as far as I have ascertained, the facts are substantially as follows. On or about the 28th of June 1874 "Wapepa" with four other Indians arrived at this Agency from Standing Rock. They were mounted on ponies and remained here about five days, and then left as they stated to return home. One of the Party failing to induce the other four to return home left for Standing Rock alone, and on the following day an Indian of this reservation named "Towacihay" who lives 19 miles east of the Agency, reported that four strange Indians were at his place, and that he did not like their appearance and that he suspected that they were on a horse stealing raid. They left his place and started southward, but he was surprised when looking for his oxen the same evening to strike their trail about two miles north of his house on the old road leading to Saint Joe, which settlement is about ninety miles distant from his place. This was on July 3rd 1874.

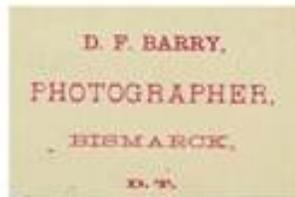
On the morning of July 5th 1874 four Indians visited the house of Joseph Delorme, near St. Joe, talked some time with the family and wanted to trade horses. Joseph Delorme started to the stable to show them his horses when they at once killed him, and his son Louie Delorme, also his son-in-law Baptise Moran. They scalped one of the men. Nancy Delorme, wife of Baptise Moran, and her mother, wife of Joseph Delorme, whose maiden name was Isabella Gurneau, were both wounded. The Indians all supposed that all five were dead but the women were only stunned and shortly afterwards recovered their senses. In the meantime the Indians had taken all the horses they could find around the farm (some seven or eight head I believe) and started for home. They passed the Indian "Towacihay's" place on their return on the morning of July 6th 1874, and camped near Lake Belland in the early part of that night. They were seen there by several freighters who were camped near them and with whom they wanted to trade horses. They arrived in Jamestown early in the morning of July 7th 1874, while there they boasted that they had killed some Chippewas up north, and showed on fresh scalp. Henry Belland, Sioux Interpreter and guide at the military post of Fort Totten, saw them there and carroused with them.

Mrs. Isabella Delorme and Nancy Moran are yet living and reside at St. Joe, Pembina County, D.T.

I was acting Agent here at the time and saw them every day for the four or five days that they remained here before going to St. Joe. I could identify "Wapepa" any where. The Indian "Towacihay" saw them going to and returning from St. Joe. Edward Lohnes of Fort Totten met them leading the extra stock.

"Wapepa" better known along the Missouri as "Brave Bear" was arrested for this offense and confined in the Guard House at Fort Lincoln for some time. I have never learned for what reason he was released but have heard it rumoured that he escaped from the Hospital there and was never recaptured. He is now here along with another one of his accomplices in the Delorme Murder whose name is "Isha Kiyape". It is my opinion that they intend leaving here and going north early in the Spring and if it is deemed best to arrest them, there is no time to be lost.

Yours very respectfully,
James McLaughlin
U.S. Ind. Agt.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
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