

John William “Piscan” Munro (b. 1831)

John Munro was the son of Hugh Munro¹ and Sinouahaha (Cree). In 1854 at Lac Ste Anne, John married Isabelle Francois Lussier born 1828, the daughter of Francois Lussier and Elizabeth Bruneau. His second marriage in 1884 was to Christina Desjarlais, the daughter of Francois Peyasis Desjarlais and Euphrosine Auger. John William Munro was employed with the HBC (1854-1874) on the Saskatchewan River and was a Blackfoot interpreter (1870-1874) at Rocky Mountain House. He was then a free trader (1857-1870) likely on the Saskatchewan River.

John Healy of the trading firm Hamilton and Healy came back to Montana in 1863, just as rumours were circulating about major gold discoveries on the North Saskatchewan River. Men returning from Fort Edmonton and Rocky Mountain House reported good colours being found in the river and predicted that a strike would be made. A number of prospectors, including Healy, got together and engaged John "Piscan" Munro to guide them through Blackfoot country to the northern river. Piscan was a son of the famous Plainsman, Hugh Munro, and was well known to both the British and Americans. In 1869, the trading firm of Hamilton and Healy moved north from Montana into “British possessions” to establish a fort which was beyond the jurisdiction of American authorities. Located at the confluence of the Belly and St. Mary rivers, near the present city of Lethbridge, the post was originally named Fort Hamilton but soon became notorious as Fort Whoop-Up.

On September 22, 1877 John Munro and other Metis at Blackfoot Crossing presented a petition (prepared on September 19) to Lieutenant-Governor David Laird Lieutenant Governor, N.W.T. concerning Metis land claims. Munro was employed as an interpreter for Treaty Seven, negotiated just days prior to this petition: On Monday afternoon, September 17, 1877, Commissioners Laird and Macleod met with the chiefs who were in attendance at the treaty grounds. James Bird, assisted by John Munro and Isidore St. Duval, handled the interpreting for the government. Jean L'Heureux, who lived in Crowfoot's camp, acted for the Indians although his services were paid for by the government.

Siblings:

- Antoine Munroe, b-1822, Alberta a son of Hugh Munroe and Sranopa Otokan Blackfoot; He married in 1855 at Lac Ste Anne, Anne Genevieve Campion, Metis, b-1835 Lesser Slave Lake, daughter Joseph Sapin dit Campion, b-1797 and Marie Nipissing, b-1810..
- Hugh Monroe, born 1825 Rocky Mountain House, North West died 1875 Red Deer River. In 1845 he married a Piegan woman.

¹ Hugh Monroe (1) also known as Old Man Munroe was born in 1784 at Montreal. He arrived at Fort Edmonton 1802. He 1st married Sranopa Otokan (Blackfoot) in 1821; 2nd married 1830 Sinouahaha (Cree). His third marriage in 1848 was to Mary (Piegan). Munro joined the HBC (1815-1844) at Fort Edmonton, was a free man at Fort Edmonton (1823-1832), an interpreter (1832-1844) Fort Edmonton, retired 1844 on the Saskatchewan River, died on the Blackfoot Reservation, at Browning, Montana in 1896.

- Felix Monroe, born 1825, died before 1885 He officially married in 1855 at Lac Ste Anne, to Louise Seguin dit Laderoute, born 1825, Cumberland, Saskatchewan.
- Emilie Munro, born 1829 married January 20, 1852 St. Mary's Anglican Church, Red River Clinton Jackson born 1810 son Francois Jackson, the couple lived at Portage La Prairie.
- Mary Monroe, born 1845, died before 1885 and married 1861 Edmond Housineau.
- Francois Monroe, born 1849, Old Man River (Alberta), married 1879, first married Mary Soldat, then married Marguerite Stands-Alone.
- Lizzie Munroe, married 1868 Joe Dechiel.



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