

Josephthe Courchene.¹ (1826-1920)

Josephthe Courchene was born in St. Norbert, the daughter of Francois Courchene (French) and his third wife Francoise Beauchamp, the Metis daughter of Jean Baptiste Beauchamp and Josephthe Daze.

Josephthe was born in 1826 in the Red River Métis settlement of St. Boniface Parish. In 1844, she married Jean Baptiste Jerome², a Métis of Pembina Band ancestry, and they had one child born in 1844 at St. Boniface Parish. This marriage lasted only one year, and in 1846 she married Pierre Deschenaux, a Métis originally from Alberta of unknown Indian ancestry.³ They had 13 children born between 1846 and 1870. In the late 1840's and early 1850's, Josephthe Courchene and her family were moving intermittently among the Métis settlements of St. Norbert and St. Boniface Parishes in Manitoba and Pembina County in North Dakota. Between 1858 and 1870, she and her family remained in Pembina County. In 1869, her brother, Francois Courchene received scrip under the 1863 Pembina treaty, described as having Pembina mixed-blood ancestry. By 1870, she and her family were living along the Battle River in Saskatchewan, where she died in 1920.



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¹ Summary taken from "Summary under the Criteria and Evidence for Final Determination Against the Federal Acknowledgment of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana." Prepared in Response to a Petition Submitted to the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs for Federal Acknowledgment that this Group Exists as an Indian Tribe. October 27, 2009:155.

² The son of Martin Jerome and Angelique Letendre.

³ He was the son of Joseph Pierre Descheneaux and Margaret Bouret.