

## Metis Signing the 1847 Treaty of Fond du Lac



Land ceded by the treaty of Fond du Lac in 1847, designated 268 (green) on the map.

The second treaty of Fond du Lac was signed by Issac A. Verplank and Henry Mower Rice for the United States and representatives of the Ojibwe of Lake Superior and the Mississippi on August 2, 1847 and proclaimed on April 7, 1848. This treaty ceded lands in a triangular area west of the Mississippi River, bounded by the Prairie du Chien Line, Mississippi river, Crow Wing River and Long Prairie River.

According to the oral histories of the mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, representatives from the Ho-Chunk Nation negotiated with the Lake Superior and Mississippi Chippewas before treaty discussions with the United States took place to guarantee the safety of the Ho-chunk Nation who was about to be displaced with the admission of Wisconsin Territory into the Union as the State of Wisconsin, per the Treaty of Washington (1846). However, due to frequent skirmishes by the Pillager, the Ho-Chunks were in constant danger of raids and were relocated to southern Minnesota in 1855. The Ho-Chunk Nation, subsequently, ceded their Minnesota areas to the United States per the Treaty of Washington for relocation to a safer area in Nebraska.

Signing for the La Pointe Band Half-Breeds were:

Chief: Vincent Roy<sup>1</sup>

Warrior: Jean-Baptise Cadotte

Second Chief: Lemo Sayer<sup>2</sup>

Warrior: Jean-Baptise Roy<sup>3</sup>

Michel Bas-he-na

Louison Godin<sup>4</sup>

John Sayer<sup>5</sup>

Chief: Louison Corbin<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Vincent Roy II: (1795 - 1872) Vincent married Lizette (1805-1883) and their children were: John (1821-?) (m. Josette), Vincent III (1825-1896) (m. Elizabeth-Lizette Cournoyer - daughter of V.Cournoyer), Charles (1845-?) (m. Mary) & Lewis (1847-?) (m. Caroline). Vincent lived in St.Croix Co. in 1842 and Crow Wing/Long Prairie Dist. in 1849. Vincent Roy Sr. traded at Thief & Red Lake River's (Red Lake post) area for J. Sayer & Co. from 1794 to 1797. He establish at post on the Upper Red River (of the North) in October of 1797. He continued his employ with J. Sayer & Co. (Fond du Lac District) until about 1800, after which he was employed in the same department for the North West Co. (Hugh McGillis). In 1817 Vincent retired from the North West Co., driving 13 head of horses to the mouth of the Little Fork River and selling them to the NWC post in the area. He then settled on a farm at the mouth of that river.

<sup>2</sup> Might be Henry R. Sayer (b. 1784), a son of John Sayer and Obemauunoqua (Marguerite), the daughter Mamongazida (Big Foot) an Ojibway.

<sup>3</sup> Jean Baptiste Roi was hired in 1795 as a winterer in Charles Gauthier's Chippewa River Department. Jean Baptiste Roy was with the NWC at Fond du Lac, 1815-16, and again after 1818. Jean Baptiste Roy b-1783 married Marguerite (Chippewa) b-1788.

<sup>4</sup> Louison Godon was a voyageur with Alexander Henry. Godon was with Henry at Pembina in 1801. Louison married Louise, a Nakoda (Assiniboine) woman.

<sup>5</sup> John Charles Sayer (b. 1780) was the son of John Sayer a North West Company partner who traded in the west Lake Superior area. His mother was Obemauunoqua (Marguerite), the daughter Mamongazida (Big Foot) an Ojibway. The United States government made a treaty with the Ojibway of the Fond du Lac region in 1826. It is known as Treaty #133 -Treaty of Fond du Lac of Lake Superior with the Chippewa, August 5, 1826. Article #4 was written to provide for the Metis members of the tribe and the names of those implicated are listed at the end. The list mentions Obemau unoqua and two of her children:

•To Henry Sayer and John Sayer, sons of Obemau unoqua, each one section.

Around 1802 it is said that John Charles Sayer was moved by the NWC to Folle Avoine Dept. to "curb the Generosity of Joseph Reaume and Joseph LaPrairie" His Dad (John Sr.) would only be about 12 miles away, building a post at Snake River (1804-05 re his SR Journal), so he could keep an eye on things. By 1803, John Charles had an Ojibway wife named Marie or Marguerite, and his first child, Pierre Guillaume Sayer was born around that time.

<sup>6</sup> Louis Corbin the son of Jean Baptiste Corbin (Commandant of the NWC, Lac Couterville Department) was married to the daughter of Michel Cadotte and Madeline (Equaysayway/Traveling Woman, LaPointe village Chief White Crane's daughter). His children later received Half-Breed Scrip under the 1854 Chippewa Treaty.



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