

Michel François Bourassa. (d. 1846)

Michel Bourassa married Marguerite Beaulieu, the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Beaulieu and Josette Richard sometime before 1806. Their children were:

- Josephte b: 1810. She married Hilaire Patenaude (b: 1846 in St Boniface), in 1843 in Edmonton district, the son of Michel Patenaude Sr. and Francoise (Cree).
- Angele b: 1817 in Carlton district. She married Pierre Lemay dit Pierriche Delorme (b: 1813 in White Mud district), the son of Pierre Delorme Sr. and Marguerite Cardinal, in 1835 at Fort Pitt.
- Jean-Baptiste, b: 1821 in the district of Fort Edmonton, d: October 19, 1882 at Lebret in the Qu'Appelle Valley. He first married Marie Vallee before 1845, then married Madeleine Pelletier the daughter of Joseph Pelletier and Genevieve Hallett in August 1847 at St. Francois Xavier.
- Angelique, married Pierre Desnoyers born 1824, she died in 1911 at St. Joseph's N.D.

Michel was a NWC interpreter. Michel was one of the principal Metis to take part in the Seven Oaks battle in 1816. Pru'homme refers to him as "Captain Bourrasa." On the night of March 17, 1816, the NWC Fort Gibraltar was attacked and seized by Colin Robertson of the HBC. On March 30, Selkirk had written to Robertson instructing him to expel the rival company from the HBC domain—if necessary resorting to force to do this. On June 10, 1816, the NWC Fort Gibraltar was destroyed, some of the logs were sent to Fort Douglas and the rest burned.

It was in this context that Michel Bourassa and Antoine Houle were leading a party of armed men to transport 20 bags of pemmican below Fort Douglas to the NWC brigade coming from Montreal. The group consisted of 6 Canadiens, 6 Indians and 52 Metis. Their orders were to avoid the fort. This they did by riding as far west as they could get without being in the swamp. Even then they reported their horses were up to their bellies in water. They were ordered by Cuthbert Grant not to attack Fort Douglas, but to defend themselves if attacked. Governor Semple spotted them and went out with 27 of his men. After a confrontation with Boucher over Semple's destruction of Fort Gibraltar the HBC men fired on the Metis, after which Holt and Semple were shot in return. An Indian named Machicabaou finished off Semple. Twenty HBC were killed as opposed to one Metis and one Indian from Grant's party. The wounded HBC men were apparently finished off by a Canadien, François Deschamps and his Metis sons.



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