

Antoine Scott Campbell (1790s-1851)

Scott was the son of Archibald John Campbell¹ and a Dakota woman. Antoine married Margaret Menagre, the daughter of Louis Fromme dit Menagre,² on 12 Aug 1825. Margaret Menagre was born in 1799 and died on 9 Jun 1892 on the Santee Reservation in Nebraska. Their children were: Henriette (b. 1824; married Benjamin Aitken Dyomme), Scott II (b. abt. 1828-1870), Hypolite (b.abt.1828), Joseph (b. 1827/36-1869; married Mary Ann), John (1834-1865; married Marguerite Lize), Margaret (b. 1838; married Joseph Labathe in 1854), Baptiste (b. 1838); Marie (b. about 1839) and Mathias.

Scott was a Metis whom Meriwether Lewis had met on his expedition up the Missouri River. He took the boy with him back to St. Louis on his return from his western journey. When Lewis died in 1809 under mysterious circumstances he returned to his Sioux relatives and finally drifted to the agency at Fort Snelling. He was licensed to trade above Prairie du Chien for James Lockwood in the 1819-20 season. Having a knowledge of four languages, he worked for Indian agent Major Lawrence Taliaferro's Dakota as an interpreter at Fort Snelling, where he assisted Lt. Edmund A. Ogden in setting the Dakota language on paper. Missionary, Samuel W. Pond credits Scott for his part in the manuscript that Ogden passed on to Samuel and his brother Gideon Pond which was helpful in their work in developing a Dakota dictionary that was finished and published though the efforts of fellow missionary, Stephen R. Riggs.

He was the interpreter for the Treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1825. In 1837, Scott was living at the St. Peters settlement, near the mouth of the Minnesota River, going to Washington D.C. as the Dakota interpreter (with his brother Duncan) for a treaty. Pond wrote of Scott, "Mr. Campbell was, in his general deportment, very mild, quiet and gentlemanly, always ready to smoke or chat with white men or Indians, carefully avoiding all harsh language and disagreeable topics; but he had a fiery temper which sometimes broke through the smooth external covering in such ebullitions of passion as we might expect from one in whom were mingled the Scotch and Dakota blood. He was skillful as an interpreter, and perhaps more skillful as a mis-interpreter...He told what he thought the speaker should have said rather than what he did say, and frequently a good understanding seemed to have been restored, simply because there had been no understanding at all."

¹ Archibald "John" Campbell: (1775-1808)

John was born in Londonderry, Muff Co., Ireland & first married Catherine Demontigny and a second marriage to a Dakota woman, who died in 1801. Their children were: John, Jeremiah, Duncan, Colin, Scott, Margaret-Pelagia (married 1st.Edward Pizanne and married 2nd.Hercules Dousman) and Nancy (1790's-1887; married John Palmer Bourke).

Archibald had been trading since 1792 and two years later is trading out of the "Little Rapids" with the Wahpetons. From 1800-06 he is a trader for the Machinac Co. but became an independent trader in 1806. In December of 1807 he is appointed the U.S. Indian Sub-Agent at Prairie du Chien, through the recommendation of Gov.Meriwether Lewis and the next year (summer 1808) he was killed in a duel with trader Redford Crawford, Campbell's former trading associate, Robert Dickson acted as Redford's second.

²She was a Metisse with a Menominee mother and French/Ojibwa father.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Coordinator of Metis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute