

William McBean. (1807-1872)

William McBean was born on the St. Croix River at Folle Avionne, about 1807, and was Metis, the son of John McBean and Madeleine Cloutier a Chippewa/Metis. He entered the HBC service in 1828 at Rupert's River, and by 1833 was in New Caledonia. McBean made apprentice clerk at Babine and was clerk in charge at Fraser's Lake by 1841. McBean moved to the Walla Walla region in 1844, settling west of the Cascade Mountains of Oregon Territory. He was the chief factor in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company fort at the mouth of the Walla Walla River at the time of the Whitman Massacre in 1847. He left Fort Walla Walla in 1855-1856 at the time of the Indian wars, and lived just north of St. Paul, Minnesota until 1862. He later returned to the valley with his Indian wife and children. He continued to reside in Walla Walla and was active in assisting various Catholic institutions until his death in 1872.

William married Jane Boucher (b. 1820), the daughter of Jean Baptiste Boucher and Nancy McDougall somewhere in New Caledonia on October 11, 1834.



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