

Montour, Jean-Baptiste. (1857-1885)

Jean-Baptiste was born at Pembina, the son of Pascal Montour Sr. and Madeleine Richard. His great grandfather, Nicholas Montour was active in the Saskatchewan fur trade, joined the Beaver Club in 1790 and was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada from 1796 to 1800.¹ Pascal Sr. was the son of Robert Bonhomme Montour and Josette Spence. In 1873, Pascal was issued Scrip # 275 (160 acres) under the Red Lake and Pembina Treaty.

Jean-Baptiste married Caroline Dumont, the daughter of Isidore Dumont and Judith Parenteau. They lived at Duck Lake.

Jean-Baptiste and Caroline Dumont had the following children:

- Judith Rosalie, born February 11, 1883 at Duck Lake.
- Caroline, born February 21, 1885, married Ambroise Frederick Fisher.

Jean-Baptiste was a member of Captain Isidore Dumont's company, one of the 19 *dizianes* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. He was involved in the 1885 Resistance at Duck Lake with Gabriel Dumont and was killed on March 26, 1885 at Duck Lake by Crozier's troops. He is buried at St. Antoine de Padoue Cemetery, Batoche. His wife and two daughters survived him.

Moise Ouellette gives this account of the deaths of Jean Baptiste and Joseph Montour:

Ouellette gets off his horse. The police were alongside the fence. They could hear Riel and Gabriel urging their men not to shoot first.

Ouellette then meets Vandal who is going away from the battlefield; he has a horse, which has only a rope around its neck.

"Give me your horse", utters Ouellette.

He gets on the horse. The shooting starts right then. He rushes toward a small barn to take cover. As he is entering a shed near it, one of the Montours is killed. He was in front of the shed on a cream-colored horse belonging to Andre Letendré. The horse, immobile, stood there without getting hit. Another Montour is killed shortly thereafter.²

Pierre Henry's account of the battle at Duck Lake:

Pierre Henry arrived on the battlefield as the last shots were fired and when the little Montours were killed. One was shot in the house and the other who had gone out to see who had shot his brother was killed in turn. The English soldiers were already fleeing. Hampered by the snow, Henry had encountered much trouble in coming. (Père Cloutier, Vol. 2: 22-23.)

Montour, Caroline; address: Duck Lake; born: 21 February, 1885 at Duck Lake District; father: Jean Baptiste Montour (Métis); mother: Caroline Dumont (Métis);

¹ Douglas W. Light, *Footprints in the Dust*. North Battleford: Turner-Warwick Publications Inc., 1987: 13.

² SHM, pp. 36-37.

scrip cert.: form C, no. 783 for \$240.00; file ref. 4543718; claim no. 512.

Montour, Rosalie; address: Duck Lake; born: 11 February, 1883 at Duck Lake; father: Jean Baptiste Montour (deceased; Métis); mother: Caroline Dumont (Métis), now wife of William Sinclair; scrip cert.: form C, no. 785 for \$240.00; claim no. 513.



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