

Nolin, Joseph (b. 1842)

Joseph Nolin was born December 15, 1842. He married Marie Anne Gaudry, then married Philomene Lucier. Joseph Nolin was employed by the Saulteaux during Treaty 3 negotiations to make a written record on their behalf. Commissioner Morris noted that the notes were to be taken in French and he had obtained a copy of these notes.¹ The only copies now extant are in English only and are referred to as the “Paypom Treaty” documents. These copies are signed by both Joseph Nolin and his brother August Nolin.²

Joseph was the son of Augustin Nolin and Helene Cameron, born at Red River on December 15, 1842. Originally he was selected by Tache to go east with Louis Riel and Louis Schmidt to study for the priesthood but his parents would not let him go. He married Marie Ann Gaudry. Marie Ann was the daughter of André Gaudry and Marie Magdeleine David. The couple married on August 7, 1867 at St. Boniface. They had four children, one of whom was Métis MLA Joseph Octave Nolin (1867-1925).

Their son, Joseph Jr. was born on May 16, 1867 in Bottineau, North Dakota, the son of Joseph Nolin and Marie-Anne Gaudry. He was educated in Ste. Anne des Chenes, Manitoba. He married Marie Villeneuve, the daughter of Theophile Villeneuve and Eliza McGillis in 1891 at Battleford. They had 15 children and homesteaded in the Meota and Jackfish Lake districts of Saskatchewan where he ranched and farmed. For ten years, he was captain of a steam ferry which crossed the Saskatchewan River at Battleford. He was also involved in road construction. He also served as a Justice of the Peace. Joe was multi-lingual, speaking, Michif, French, Cree, English and German. Joe was said to weigh over three-hundred pounds. He was a sportsman and travelled extensively by dog sled, canoe, horseback and later by auto. His grandfather, Augustin Nolin, fought on the Canadian side during the War of 1812.

Joseph was one of Saskatchewan’s first Métis MLA’s. Nolin, a Liberal, was the only representative of the former electoral district of Athabasca, which existed from 1908 until 1917. He then represented the Ile-a-la-Crosse riding from 1917 to 1926.

Joseph Nolin Sr. subsequently married Philomene Lucier, the daughter of Toussaint Lucier and Louise Brazeau on July 9, 1882 at Duck Lake, Saskatchewan. They had two children born at Battleford: Marie Clement born on September 7, 1884 who died on July 29, 1886 at Battleford; and, Marie Anne, Born May 6, 1886.

During the 1885 Northwest Resistance Joseph was one of four men arrested at Battleford on suspicion of being rebels but was later released. His father fought on the British side at Michilimackinac during the War of 1812.

¹ Department of Indian Affairs, *Annual Report*, 1884, p. 15.

² PAM, MG12, B1, No. 512, Nolin’s Notes, October 3, 1873.



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