

Monkman, Albert. (1854-1911)

Albert was born at St. Clements, Red River, the son of Joseph “Old Joe” Monkman and Isabella Setter. He married Mary Ann Morwick. They had a claim at Duck Lake. He was a member of Riel’s 16 man Council (Exovedate) at Batoche during the 1885 Resistance. During the battle 60 men under Albert Monkman and Patrice Fleury guarded the west bank of the Saskatchewan River. Riel suspected Monkman of disloyalty and had him imprisoned. On August 14, 1885, at Regina Albert was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment for his part in the Resistance. After his release, he moved to the United States and abandoned his land at Duck Lake.

In his testimony of August 13, 1885 at the Regina trial Father Alexis Andre says: “Albert Monkman I have known for two years past. He is a man who has been very much, and I think unfairly, abused and misrepresented. I always found him kind and good, and he always took the part of the weak and defenceless against Riel, to his own very great danger and risk. The opinion I got of him from my brother priests is most favorable. He prevented the burning at Duck Lake and St. Laurent of the Catholic churches, although not a Catholic himself, and was imprisoned by Riel because he opposed him in every way he could and wanted to escape from the rebel camp. I sincerely believe that Monkman was a good, true and loyal man, who was placed in most difficult circumstances, and acted amid danger and difficulty as few men would dare to do for the best interests of the country, even at imminent risk of his life.” CSP, 1886, Vol. 13, p. 383)

On March 14, 1911, Albert J. Monkman, councillor to Louis Riel in the Resistance died in Edmonton, Alberta. He was also a great friend of Chief Pound Maker. Most of his family lived in Rosseau, Minnesota.



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