

## **Monkman, Oliver** (b. 1938)

Oliver Monkman was one of the delegates at 1964 meeting of the Indian and Métis Conference who presented the report of the Manitoba Métis Association at the close of the conference. Oliver Monkman Jr. is the great-great-great grandson of James and Mary Monkman<sup>1</sup>. Oliver became an elected Vice-President (Interlake 1994-2003) for the Manitoba Métis Federation. In 2003, Oliver retired from Métis politics after serving the Métis people for 35 years.

Oliver Monkman was born on May 25, 1938, probably in St Peters Parish (Manitoba), the son of Elizabeth (née Kipling) and Ernest Monkman (1911-1954). This is a Cree-speaking family. In 1954 Oliver's father, Ernest Monkman, died by drowning in the Red River. Oliver was about 16 years old at that time. His mother, Elizabeth Kipling (1912-2012), remarried to George Edward Carlson (1885-1959).<sup>2</sup> Ernest Gifford (Clifford) Monkman was born in January of 1911, son of Mary Agnes Smith and Robert James Monkman (1877-1956). After the death of his father Oliver worked as a fisherman on Lake Winnipeg with his uncle who was based out of the Matheson Island area. Oliver also worked with the Monkmans working out of Hay River in the North West Territory.

A 1977 article in the Free Press about the Manitoba general election indicates that Oliver Monkman (Liberal), “a 38 year old Métis transport company operator from Norway House whose quixotic campaign has been characterized by Pimpernell-like elusiveness - “On Oct 11, 1977 the election was held. Results for the Thompson Constituency indicated Ken MacMaster (PC) 3947; Ken Dillen (NDP) 3031; and Oliver Monkman (L) 283.

On April 11, 2003, the Red River Local of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) hosted a retirement social honoring Mr. Oliver Monkman, former Vice-President of the Interlake Region of MMF. He was retiring from Métis politics after 35 years of serving our Manitoba communities.



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

---

<sup>1</sup> James Monkman. (b. 1793): James married Mary (Cree) at Severn House. They lived at Severn House, Big Trout Lake and Island Lake before moving to the Red River Settlement in 1816. Their Métis children all born in northeastern Manitoba were; Harriet, James (b.c. 1807), Anne Nancy (b.c. 1807), Joseph (b. 1810), and Ernest (b. 1811). Their son Joseph (Old Joe) Monkman was also an HBC employee and worked from 1854 to 1858 as a Middleman. Children born at St. John's were: Mary (b. 1816) Jane (b. 1822) and John (b. c. 1823). James Monkman died 17 August, 1865, age 91; and is buried at St. Peter's Church. The Métis children and grandchildren of James and Mary Monkman have been Métis harvesters, predominantly fishers, on Lake Winnipeg and east of Lake Winnipeg for well over 100 years.

<sup>2</sup> Red River Ancestry: <http://www.redriverancestry.ca/MONKMAN-OLIVER-1938.php>