

## **Monkman, William.** (1878-1958)

William Monkman was born on August 6, 1878 at Clandeboye, Manitoba, the son of Andrew Monk-man and Nancy Chastellaine. William's paternal grandparents were Joseph Monkman and Isabelle Setter. Joseph was born in the St. Andrews District and baptized at St. Peter's Church. His father came to Canada in 1812 and married Mary, a Cree woman. Isabelle was the daughter of an Orkneyman, Andrew Setter. Historically these Monkman's were farmers but they also became fishermen when William's father moved the family to Monkman's Island at Loon Straits in 1896. William's uncle, Albert Monkman, fought for the Métis at Batoche during the 1885 Resistance.

William's first wife was Adeline Favell (1880- 1903); they married in 1901 and had two children. He then married Rose Anne Ramsay in 1906 and they had twelve children. Rose Anne was the daughter of John Ramsay and Julia D'Arcis. John Ramsay has become famous in Manitoba history as the Indian hunter who saved the newly formed Icelandic Colony during the smallpox epidemic of the 1870s. By distributing free moose meat and other food to the quarantined settlers he is credited with saving 75 lives.

During his life, William worked as a fisherman, farmer, boat builder and ran the fish station for 40 years. The Monkman home was also known as a stopping place for travelers.

### *Source*

Monkman, Anne. *Loon Straits: Looking Back*. Loon Straits: Author, 1999.



**LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE**  
*Knowledge • Culture • Heritage*

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