

Tanner, Joseph “Kissoway or Ke-she-sha-way.” (1822-1897)

Kissoway was the son of Chief Pechito Tanner. He married Angelique Clermont (b.c. 1815), then married a sister of Yellow Quill,¹ both Metis descendants of a French fur trader Bouron dit Clermont. He was a member of Yellow Quill's band. Joseph Tanner and Chief Yellow Quill's sister were both members of Yellow Quill's band. They had one daughter, Julie, born in 1849 at Portage la Prairie. She married John Wells of St. François Xavier. Joseph died in 1897 at the Crooked Lake Reserve in what is now Saskatchewan.

Joseph (*Kissoway*) Tanner was another son of Chief Picheito Tanner and a brother of Chief Gambler Tanner. He was probably born in the Red Lake area of Minnesota since the Red Lake Band moved freely back and forth across the international border. Joseph was the grandson of John “Falcon” Tanner and his Sauteaux wife, Red Sky of the Morning.

Kasheshaway (*Kissoway*) was a trader and freighter on the St. Paul-Pembina-Winnipeg route, he was known to have as many as 200 Red River carts on the road at one time. On June 6 of 1874 Lieutenant Governor Alexander Morris wrote to the Minister of the Interior on risks faced by the British-American Boundary Commission after interviewing Kissoway. He noted:

“In many ways ‘Kissoway is a remarkable man, he is a pure Indian [sic] – a Sauteaux, having no knowledge of either the French or English language – nevertheless he carries on a very large trade, and, I am informed, imports his own goods from England. He bears a high character for truthfulness and impressed me most favourably by his intelligence and anxiety that steps should be taken to prevent any possible trouble with the Indian nations. It would seem from his statement that the cause of probable difficulties is the presence of the American force on the Boundary Survey – The Indians have great confidence in the British ... The hostility of the Sioux is so great, to the Americans, that the American portion of the party should be instructed by the U.S. government to treat the Indians properly, and carefully avoid all cause of trouble.”

Joseph first married Angélique Clermont and they had a daughter, Marie born in 1842 at Fort Ellice. Marie married Jean Nolin of St. Vital.

Children of Joseph Tanner and Angelique Clermont:

- Marie was born in 1842 near Fort Ellice; the daughter of Joseph “Ke-she-sha-way or Kissoway” Tanner (b. 1822) and Angelique Clermont (Métis). Marie lived with her mother in Manitoba until 1855 when they went to the NWT. They lived in the family of Jean Dumont in Saskatoon until she married Jean-Baptiste Nolin (baptized February 16, 1834 at St. Boniface). The couple then moved to St. Joseph’s in North Dakota. Jean Baptiste and Marie Tanner married in 1863 at St. Boniface. Jean Baptiste was the son of Joseph Nolin (1804-1872) and Louise “Lizette” Frederic (b. 1812). He was born at Pembina. He died on February 19, 1872 in Ste. Agathe Parish. Joseph Marie and Jean Baptiste followed the buffalo hunt living first at St. Joseph, North Dakota then in the Souris River valley in the Mishikab Desjarlais Camp. Then they lived with the buffalo hunters at Wood Mountain who hunted down into the Cypress Hills and along the South Branch of the Saskatchewan River. At the time Marie made her scrip application they had been living near Swift Current on the South Branch for seven years.

¹ Identified variously as Equawezanse/ Sqwasis/ ‘Little Girl’? and/or Nesko-te-koway.

Tanner, Marie; address: Swift Current; born: 1842 near Fort Ellice; father: Joseph Tanner or Petito (Métis); mother: Angélique Clermont (Métis); married: 1863 to Jean Nolin at St. Boniface; children living: Marie Louise; children deceased: 1; scrip for \$160.00; claim no. 911.

- Bazile Pitchito, born circa 1845.

Children of Joseph Tanner and Yellow Quill's sister:

- Julie Tanner, born 1849 at Portage la Prairie, she married John Wells (Wells) in 1869, after marriage they lived at the Dirt Hills in south-central Saskatchewan.

Tanner, Julie; address: Battleford; born: 1849 at Portage la Prairie; father: Joseph Tanner or Ke-she-sha-way; (Métis); mother: sister of Chief Yellow Quill (Indian); married: Spring, 1869 at St. Francois Xavier; to John Wells Jr; children living: Salomon, John, Alexander and Isaac; children deceased: Abraham and Marie Athalia; scrip for \$160.00; claim no. 892.

Wells, John; heir to his deceased son, Joseph Isaac; Wells; address: Battleford, Saskatchewan; born: April, 1883 at Red Deer River, Saskatchewan; died: 14 July, 1889 at Bresaylor, Saskatchewan; father: John Wells, Sr. (Métis and deponent); mother: Julia Tanner (Métis); scrip cert.: form D, no.1227 for \$240.00; claim no. 462.



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