Métis Residents of Charleswood (St. Charles Parish)



Lawrence J. Barkwell Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research Louis Riel Institute July, 2018



Métis Residents of Charleswood (St. Charles Parish).

The name Charleswood is likely a combination of the Parish name "St. Charles" and the dense woodland that filled the area south of the Assiniboine River. Early in the 19th Century, Charleswood was the location of "The Passage" — a natural ford at the foot of Berkley Street, where the Assiniboine River was shallow enough to cross. The Passage was frequently used by buffalo hunters travelling to Pembina, and independent traders wanting to bypass the Forks in defiance of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) monopoly.

In 1857, the H.B.C. surveyed and divided land on both sides of the Assiniboine into narrow river lot farms, extending two miles from the riverbank. The original river lots were extended to a depth of four miles in 1880 to provide for a hay privilege. Among the earliest settlers on these river lot farms were the Beauchemin, Hogue, Morrissette, and Branconnier families.

Around 1865, a river road was cut through the dense woodland along the south bank of the Assiniboine River to Baie St. Paul. A ferry was established at the Passage in 1870 linking Berkley Street on the south side of the Assiniboine River with Rouge Road on the north side in St. Charles.

The old River Lots of Charleswood are numbered from 1 to 80 on the south side of the Assiniboine River starting at about Kenaston Ave on the east and ending just past the perimeter highway on the west. The lots were from two to six chains in width starting at the river going south for two miles, the next two miles of the lot was the hay privilege. This makes up the portion of St. Charles Parish located on the south side of the Assiniboine River. The old Baie St. Paul Trail ran westward along the river through Charleswood. On the north side of the Assiniboine River the St. Charles river lot numbers continue ascending as one moves east.

St. Charles (Charleswood) River Lots

Lot 2	Charlotte Welsh ¹
Lot 3	Peter R. Robinson
Lot 3 outer	Archibald Wright
Lot 4	James Spence
Lot 5	William J. Corrigan
Lot 6	"
Lot 7	"
Lot 9	James Richards ²
Lot 9 outer	Jean-Baptiste Auger sold to John Grant
Lot 10	James Richards
Lot 11	James Richards
Lot 14	Francis Walsh ³

¹ Charlotte Sauvé, born November 12, 1808, in the North West Territories, near the Polar Sea. She married François Xavier Welsh. She died October 14, 1888.Her son François was living on Lot 14.

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² James Richards Jr. b. 1845, married Mary Irvine [Métis], b. 1849.

Lot 20	Robert Tait
Lot 20	P.C. Stanley
Lot 25	Edwin Bourke ⁴
Lot 26 outer	Edwin Bourke
Lot 27 outer	Edwin Bourke
Lot 28 outer	Walter Bourke ⁵
Lot 29 outer	Walter Bourke
Lot 30	Joseph McMullen
Lot 34	Mrs. Letitia Murray
Lot 36	William B. Hall
Lot 37	James Smith
Lot 38	James Smith
Lot 39	Purchased by Alexander Murray from Roger Nabis
Lot 40	"
Lot 41	William Rodmay "
Lot 39	Alexander Dawson barrister
Lot 40	Alexander Dawson barrister
Lot 41	William Rodmay
Lot 49	James Sinclair ⁶
Lot 50	"
Lot 51	46
Lot 56	Joseph Hogue ⁷
Lot 57	Amable Hogue ⁸
Lot 57 outer	Emily Roblin sold to Joseph Hogue
Lot 58	John F. Grant
Lot 59	Hon. Jean-Baptiste Beauchemin ⁹
Lot 60	Thomas Hogue ¹⁰
Lot 61	Antoine Hogue ¹¹

³ François Welsh, b. 1842 the son of François Xavier Welsh and Charlotte Sauvé. He married Mary Anne Hogue daughter of Amable Hogue. d: October 14, 1888 in St François Xavier.

she married François-"Xavier" Walsh dit Wells dit Welsh b: Abt. 1797 in Germany (or elsewhere, in Europe) d: Bef. 1867 in Red River District (Manitoba) m: Abt. 1834 in Red River Settlement (Manitoba)

⁴ Métis MLA Edwin Bourke was born September 19, 1836, the son of John Palmer Bourke and his Métis wife, Nancy Campbell. Edwin married Isabella Hallett on March 26, 1862. Edwin was a buffalo hunter, farmer and politician. Later he inherited the Hay Field Farm in St. James from his father. This farm was purchased by his father when it was the Hudson Bay Company's Experimental Farm also called the Colony Farm.

⁵ Walter Bourke b. 1825, married Flora Hallett. He was brother to Edwin above.

⁶ Margaret Sauvé, was the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Sauvé (b.c. 1769) and Marguerite (Saulteaux). Marguerite was born January 06, 1831 in Red River Settlement, she married James Sinclair b: 1826 in St Boniface Parish District, Red River Settlement about. 1849 in Red River District

⁷ Joseph b.c. 1835, son of Amable Hogue and Marguerite Taylor, married Pelagie Turcotte the daughter of Vital Turcotte and Magdeleine Caplette.

⁸ Amable b. c. 1830-35 son of Amable Hogue and Marguerite Taylor. He married Betsy Morrissette the daughter of François Morrissette.

⁹ Born c. 1835-38, son of Benjamin Beauchemin and Marie Parenteau. He married Marguerite McMillan b. 1839, the daughter of William McMillan and Marguerite Dease.

¹⁰ Thomas Hogue, born 1842, son of Amable Hogue and Marguerite Taylor. He married Philomene McMillan, b. 1845 daughter of William McMillan.

¹¹ Antoine, b. 1844, the son of Amable Hogue and Marguerite Taylor.

	12
Lot 63	James Brown ¹²
Lot 64	Louis Hogue
Lot 64	Thomas McKay (East half)
Lot 65	Andre Guiboche ¹³
Lot 66	Noel Guiboche ¹⁴
Lot 67	Michel Proulx ¹⁵
Lot 68	Alexis Vivier ¹⁶
Lot 69	Joseph LeClaire (Leclerc) ¹⁷
Lot 70	Joseph Leclerc
Lot 71	J.A. Allard
Lot 72	J.A. Allard
Lot 73	Baptiste Branconnier
Lot 73 outer	A.C. Caron
Lot 74	Joachim Allard ¹⁸
Lot 75	John Swain ¹⁹
Lot 76	Joachim Allard
Lot 77	Joachim Allard
Lot 78	Joachim Allard
Lot 79	Branconnier (1870 Census)
Lot 80	Branconnier (1870 Census)
Lot 81	Branconnier (1870 Census)
Lot 82	Branconnier (1870 Census)

Métis Families of Charleswood

Beauchemin, Jean-Baptiste. The Honorable Baptiste Beauchemin was born in 1835, the son of Benjamin Beauchemin and Marie Parenteau. He married Marguerite McMillan (b. 1839), the daughter of William McMillan and Marguerite Dease. In 1870 they were living in St. Charles on Lot 59. Their children at that time were William (11), Virginie (9), Adelaide (7), Marguerite (4) and Maria (2). Baptiste Beauchemin and Patrick Kelly both donated the land near Kelly's store to build the Red Brick School in 1914. See Baptiste's biography in the Appendix.

¹² Born c. 1846-48. He married Mary Allary b. 1851, the daughter of Joseph Allary.

¹³ Andre b. c. 1840-41, son of Edward Guiboche and Marie Larocque. He married Julie Desjardin (b. 1846) daughter of Jean Baptiste Desjardin and Marguerite Hamlin.

¹⁴ Noel, b.c. 1835-38, son of Edward Guiboche and Marie Larocque. He married Marie Smith b. 1832, daughter of Peter Smith and Susan Peysonette, then married Camille Desjardin.

¹⁵ Michel, married Angele Guiboche b. 1831, the daughter of Edward Guiboche.

¹⁶ Alexis, b. 1845, married Elise Bousquet, daughter of Michel Bousquet.

¹⁷ Joseph, b.c. 1831-34, son of Joseph Leclaire and Therese Huppe. He married Louise Bousquet b. 1835, daughter of Michel Bousquet.

¹⁸ Father Allard (1838-1917) was ordained in 1865, and followed Archbishop Tache into the North West. He joined the Oblates in St. Boniface in Manitoba, and studied Cree and Ojibwa. He was the first missionary in Fort Alexander in 1876, when he set up the Residential School and Chapel. In 1880 he founded the French Canadian Parish of St. Georges in Fort Alexander. In 1887 he was made Vicar-General of St. Boniface and took up residence in St. Mary's presbytery.

¹⁹ John, b. 1832, son of James Swain. He married Elise or Louise Laverdure, daughter of Joseph Laverdure and Nancy Duck.

Bourke, Edwin Colin (MLA). The Honorable Edwin Bourke was born September 19, 1836, the son of John Palmer Bourke and his Métis wife, Nancy Campbell. Edwin married Isabella Hallett on March 26, 1862. Isabella was the daughter of William Peter Hallett and Maria Pruden. Edwin owned Lot 25 and the outer two miles of Lots 26 and 27. His brother Walter had the outer two miles of Lots 28 and 29.

Branconnier (Braconnier), Jean-Baptiste. Baptiste Branconnier was born on July 20, 1828 in St. James. He was the son of Baptiste Branconnier (b. 1791) and Louise Beauchemin the daughter of Andre Beauchemin. Jean Baptiste married Julie Villebrun, the daughter of Louis Villebrun and Louise Collin. In 1875 they were living on Lot 73 in Charleswood. In the 1870 census they are shown on Lots 78 to 90. Their children living with them in 1870 are: William (15), Baptiste 13 and Marie (1). Also with the family are John Sharon (24) and his wife Philomine (17), the daughter of Baptiste Branconnier Sr., and their son Robert (1). The collective residences of the Branconnier-Morrissette clan became known as "Wheat City". Jean Baptiste was buried on April 18, 1901 at St. Charles.

Also living on the Branconnier Lots were his sister Adelaide Branconnier (b. September 6, 1832) and her husband Baptiste Morrissette (b. 1828), the son of Arsene Morrissette, and Therese [Saulteaux]. Their children at the time of the 1870 census were: Philomene (19), Marguerite (16), Marie (16), Rose (12), Adelaide [Caroline] (10), and Pierre (3). See the Appendix for more notes on Adelaide.

Enumerated with this Morrissette household in 1870 are their daughter Adelaide Morrissette (born February 26, 1852) and her husband Robert Miles Bird, the son of Thomas Bird and Ellen McDermott. They had one son John Thomas (1).

Len Van Roon informs that two families of Morrissettes [George and August, sons of Jean Baptiste and Mary Morrisette] later each bought double lots on McLean St. in west Charleswood when the City of Winnipeg put them up for sale.

Also living on this Branconnier property was another brother Antoine Branconnier, born November 10, 1838, and his wife Sarah Celestine Bird, the daughter of Thomas Bird and Ellen McDermott, and their children: Marie (9), Joseph (8), Thomas (5), Mary (4), and Antoine (3).

Bremner, Peter, born December 14, 1845 at St. François Xavier, the son of William Bremner (b. 1822) and Mary Gariepy, the daughter of Jean Baptiste Gariepy and Marguerite Abraham. Peter married Marguerite Turcotte, the daughter of Vital Turcotte and Madeleine Caplette. Their family lived on Lot 52 in what is now Charleswood. At least three of their children were born there. The family later moved to St. François Xavier / St. Eustache area, then to the Cypress Hills and Lebret in the Qu'Appelle Valley.

Bremner, Thomas, born circa 1847, the son of William Bremner (b. 1822) and Mary Gariepy. Thomas married Caroline Morrissette, the daughter of Jean Baptiste Morrissette and Adelaide Braconnier on February 5, 1871 at St. Charles. Their family lived on Lot 53 in what is now Charleswood. In 1876 they apparently moved to Baie St. Paul then returned to Charleswood (St. Charles).

Brown, James, was the son of Peter Brown and Sarah Bremner, he was married to Mary Allery the daughter of Joseph Allery. In 1870 they were living on Lots 62 and 63 in St. Charles now Charleswood. Later Louis Hogue purchased these lots.

Brown, Sara, was (b. 1822) in the NWT the daughter of Alex Bremner and Elizabeth Twatt. She was the widow of Peter Brown, they married in 1840. She was living with her son James Lots 62 and 63 as above with her daughter Annie (13). Her daughter was married to Antoine Hogue and lived on Lot 61.

Caplette, Louis, was born circa 1814, the son of Joseph Caplette and Angelique Guiboche. He married Isabelle Rochon before 1842. This family lived Lots 5 and 6 in St. Charles now Charleswood. His brother Joseph Caplette was married to Margaret Branconnier. Louis died on December 10, 1891 at St. Joseph, North Dakota. His brother Denis Caplette was married to Elisabeth Bremner the daughter of Alex Bremner. Her sister Sarah lived on Lots 62 and 63 in St. Charles.

Desjardins, François, was born on March 30, 1846 the son of Jean Baptiste Desjardin and Marguerite Hamelin. He married Marguerite Leclerc (Leclair) the daughter of Joseph Leclair. In 1870 the family was living on Lot 64 in St. Charles now Charleswood. François' father-in-law Joseph Leclair was living on Lot 69.

Grant, John F. In 1870 John Grant, his wife Clothilde Bruneau and their children were enumerated in St. Charles. The family resided on Lot 58 in what is now Charleswood. Grant was a land speculator and had many other river lots in Manitoba. He had the patent for Lot 78 in Charleswood and one of Grant's employees, John Swain was living on Lot 78 in 1875. See notes on Johnny Grant in the Appendix.

Guiboche, Noel Emanuel, was born between 1835-38, the son of Edouard Guilbault dit Guiboche (b.c. 1791) and Marie Anne Rocque. He married Caroline Desjardins, the daughter of Antoine Desjardins and Isabelle Lampert, before 1861. Their children were: Virginie Guiboche, born July 24, 1861 at St. Charles and Joseph Guiboche, born February 23, 1863 (he died in 1865). He then married Mary Smith, the daughter of Peter Smith and Suzanne Paradis on March 19, 1868 at St. Charles. In 1870 his widowed mother (60) was living with them. Their family lived on Lots 66 and 67 in St. Charles now Charleswood.

Hogue, Mary, born January 18, 1832, the daughter of Amable Hogue Sr. (1796-1858) and Margaret Taylor (1805-1885). She married William Bremner (b. c. 1822), she was his second wife. William was the son of Alex Bremner (1791-1885) and Elizabeth Twatt. William was first married to Marie Gariepy in 1844, then married Marie Hogue the daughter of Amable Hogue and Marguerite Taylor some time before 1854. In 1870 they were living in St. Charles on Lot 116 on the north side of the Assiniboine River across from Charleswood . Their children and stepchildren at that time were: Thomas (23), Annie (20), Margaret (14), Alexandre (13), Alban (17), Harriet (11), Joseph (10), Moise (8) and Maria (7).

Hogue Jr., Amable, born on May 6, 1833, the son of Amable Hogue Sr. (1796-1858) and Margaret Taylor (1805-1885). Around 1860, Amable Jr. married Betsy Morrissette, the daughter

of Philomene Favel and François Morrisette (1814-1870). In 1870 they were living in St. Charles on Lots 57 and 58. Their children at that time were: William (10), Sarah (8), Amable (6), Virginie (5), and Philomene (3). See notes on his participation on the Palliser Expedition in the Appendix.

Hogue, Joseph, born December 30, 1835, the son of Amable Hogue Sr. (1796-1858) and Margaret Taylor (1805-1885). He married Pelagie Turcotte, the daughter of Vital Turcotte (1818-1882). and Magdeleine Caplette. In 1870 they were living in St. Charles on Lot 56. Their children at that time were: Rosalie (11), William (10), Philomene (6), Sarah (4) and Alex (2).

Hogue, Thomas, born June 1840, the son of Amable Hogue Sr. (1796-1858) and Margaret Taylor (1805-1885). He married Philomene McMillan, the daughter of William McMillan and Marguerite Dease in 1865. In 1870 they were living in St. Charles on Lot 60. Their children at that time were: Clara (5), Adelaide (3), and Marguerite (1). Thomas' widowed mother Marguerite (60) was also living with them.

Hogue, Antoine, born December 24, 1844, also the son of Amable Hogue Sr. (1796-1858) and Margaret Taylor (1805-1885). On January 16, 1866, Antoine was married Crawford Brown, daughter of Sarah Bremner (Métis) and Peter Brown (1806 the Orkneys). In 1870 they were living in St. Charles on Lot 61. Their children at that time were: Elizabeth (5), Mary Anne (3), and Albert James (1).

Hogue, Louis, born June 10, 1846, the son of Amable Hogue Sr. (1796-1858) and Margaret Taylor (1805-1885). He married his sister-in-law Julie Turcotte, the daughter of Vital Turcotte and Magdeleine Caplette. In 1870 they were living in St. Charles north of the Assiniboine River, across from Charleswood on Lot 105. Their children at that time were: Rosalie (3), and Louis (1). Later Louis Hogue had title to Lots 61, 62 and 64 in Charleswood.

Hogue, Marie Anne, born 1850, the daughter of Amable Hogue Sr. (1796-1858) and Margaret Taylor (1805-1885). She married François Welsh, the son of François Xavier Welsh (b. 1797) and Charlotte Sauve, circa 1879. In 1870 they were living in St. Charles on Lot 14. They had one child Sara (1).

Jobin, Ambroise, born May 17, 1851 the son of Ambroise Jobin (b. 1817) and Marguerite Mandeville. Ambroise fought in the 1885 Northwest Resistance, was shot in the thigh at Batoche and died of his wounds on May 23, 1885 in Saskatoon. He married Annie Bremner, the daughter of William Bremner and Marie Gariepy. In the 1870s they lived on Lot 55 in St. Charles now Charleswood. His wife's step-brothers Peter and Thomas Bremner lived on Lots 52 and 53.

Leclerc (Leclair), Joseph, was born on February 15, 1832, the son of Joseph Leclerc (bc. 1798) and Therese Huppe, the daughter of Joseph Huppe and Marguerite Marcellais. Joseph married Louise Bousquet, the daughter of Michel Bousquet and Louise Vendette before 1855. Joseph and Louise moved from St. Boniface to St. Charles in the 1860s. In 1870 they were living on Lot 69 in what is now Charleswood.

McMillan, Joseph, born 1849, the son of William McMillan and Marguerite Dease. He married Appoline Bruce. They lived on Lot 32 in St. Charles now Charleswood. His sister Marguerite

living on Lot 59 was married to Jean Baptiste Beauchemin and sister Philomene living on Lot 60 was married to Thomas Hogue.

Proulx, Michel, born 1818 in Quebec was the son of Pierre Proulx and Françoise Lacroix. He married Angele Guiboche (b. 1831), the daughter of Edouard Guiboche and Marie Anne Rocque. The family lived on Lot 67 in St. Charles now Charleswood. They were living beside her younger brother Noel Guiboche who lived on Lots 65 and 66.

Swain, John. John was the son of James Swain. He was married to Elise Laverdure, the daughter of Joseph Laverdure. In 1870 they were enumerated on Lot 78 in Charleswood. Their children at this time were: Nancy (13), John (12), Joseph (11), Marie (4), and Amable (2). See the Appendix for notes on John F. Grant and more information on this family.

Vivier, Alexis (1845-1875) was the son of Alexis Vivier (b.1813) and Isabelle Short (b. 1815). He married Elise Bousquet, the daughter of Michel Bousquet and Louise Vendette. Elise's sister Louise was married to Joseph Leclair and lived on Lot 69 in St. Charles. Alexis and Elise lived next to them on Lot 68. In 1870 they had three children: Alexis (10), Marie (5) and Madeleine (3).

Welsh, Charlotte née Sauve. Charlotte Sauve, born November 12, 1808, in the North West Territories, near the Polar Sea. She married François Xavier Welsh. She died October 14, 1888. She owned Lot 2 in Charleswood. Her son François Welsh was living on Lot 14. In the 1870 census Charlotte is enumerated as a 61 year old widow, living with her daughter Angelique Ward (29) a widow also, daughter Marguerite (18). Also in the home were William Ward (11), Henry John (7) and Cecile (3) all children of Angelique and Joseph Ward.

References:

Charleswood Historical Society. *Charleswood's Historic Square Mile*, n.d.
Len and Verna Van Roon. *Photos & Fragments of Charleswood History*, Second Edition.
Winnipeg: Charleswood Historical Society, 2017.
Len Van Roon, personal communication, June 30, 2018.

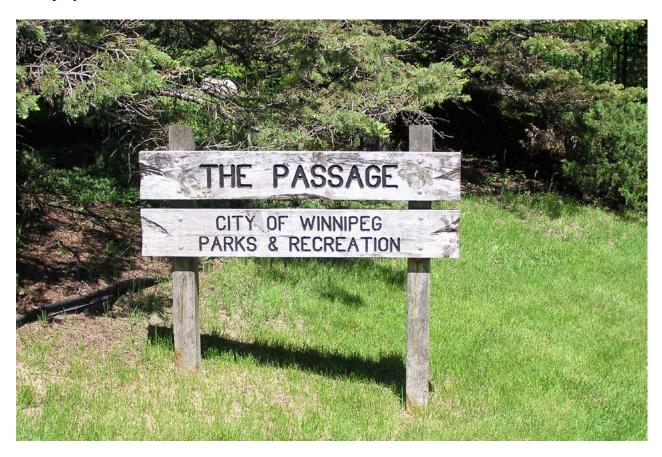


Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research Louis Riel Institute

Appendix

The Passage

Early in the 19th century, Charleswood was the location of the "The Passage", a natural ford for buffalo and Red River carts at the foot of Berkley Street, where the Assiniboine River was shallow enough to cross. On the south side of the river it was located on Lot 59, Jean Baptiste Beauchemin's land. The Passage was frequently used by Métis buffalo hunters travelling to Pembina, and independent traders wanting to bypass the Forks in defiance of the H.B.C.'s monopoly.



In 1857, the H.B.C. surveyed and divided land on both sides of the Assiniboine into narrow river lot farms, extending two miles from the riverbank. The original river lots were extended to a depth of four miles in 1880 to provide for haylands. Among the earliest settlers on these river lot farms were the Beauchemin, Hogue, Morrissette, and Branconnier families.

Around 1865, a river road was cut through the dense woodland along the south bank of the Assiniboine River to Baie St. Paul. A ferry was established at the Passage in 1870 linking Berkley Street with Rouge Road in St. Charles on the north side of the Assiniboine. The ferry was run by Jean Baptiste Beauchemin until 1884, then by Antoine Hogue up until 1908 when it was moved upstream to deeper water.



Site of the ferry located at the Passage

Métis

This was one of the largest settlements of winter quarters for Métis Buffalo Hunters, who followed the great herds of Buffalo across the tall grass prairie every spring and fall. Métis settled all along the river in this area, the high ground of Charleswood being relativley safe from Spring flooding. Many Métis familes lived in this area before the arrival of the Caron family. Transportation routes included cart trails South and West across the prairie as well as East/West boat and winter travel on the Assiniboine.



Reference:

St. Charles Ferry, 1909. Archives of Manitoba, Still Images Section. Edgar J. Ransom Collection. Item Number 158. Negative 13060.

In the vicinity of The Passage are a number of Parks named after the Métis families that settled nearby.

- Beauchemin Park
- Branconnier Park
- Morrissette Park

Beauchemin dit Millet, Jean-Baptiste. (1838-1900)

Jean-Baptiste was a member of the Louis Riel's Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia in 1870 as a member for St. Charles which was also represented by his uncle, Andre Beauchemin. Jean was born on November 3, 1838, the son of Benjamin Beauchemin (b. 1811) and Marie Parenteau, the daughter of Joseph Parenteau and Suzanne Richard. In 1858 Jean-Baptiste was married to Marguerite McMillan (b. January 12, 1840). Marguerite was the daughter of William McMillan and Margaret Dease.

Children:

- Patrice, married Sarah Bruce in 1894.
- William, born December 28, 1860, at St. Boniface, he married Philomene Hogue.
- Marie Virginie, born October 28, 1862, she married Alexandre Allard.
- Adelaide, born November 15, 1864.
- Marguerite Sophie, born June 11, 1867 at St. Charles.
- Marie, born circa 1868, she married Daniel Carrière.
- Alfred, born circa 1877 at St. Charles, he married Maria Chamberland in 1911.

Jean represented St. Charles at the Convention of Forty in 1870 and served on Riel's second provisional government. Pierre Parenteau Sr. was his uncle as was André Beauchemin both of whom also served on the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia. Both of these men were members of Louis Riel's October 1869 Métis National Committee.

Scrip affidavit for Beauchemin, Baptiste; born: November 3, 1838; father: Benjamin Beauchemin (Métis); mother: Marie Parenteau (Métis); claim no.: 871; date of issue: July 12, 1876.

Scrip affidavit for Beauchemin, Marguerite; wife of Jean-Baptiste Beauchemin; born: January 12, 1840; father: Wm. A. Millen [sic] (Métis); mother: Marguerite Dease (Métis); claim no: 872; date of issue: July 12, 1876.

Scrip affidavit for Beauchemin, Marie; widow of Benjamin Beauchemin; born: 1815; father: Joseph Parenteau (French Canadian); mother: Suzanne (Métis); claim no: 1758; date of issue: September 20, 1876.

Edwin Colin Bourke, M.L.A. (1836-1915)

Edwin was born September 19, 1836, the son of John Palmer Bourke and his Métis wife, Nancy Campbell. Edwin married Isabella Hallett on March 26, 1862. Isabella was the daughter of William Peter Hallett and Maria Pruden. They had six children: William Bourke (1863-1943), Walter Palmer Bourke (1865-1866), Edmond Bourke (1866-1958), Maria Ann Bourke (1868-1973), Florence Bourke (1870-1955), Catherine Isabella Bourke (1872-1957), and Arthur Herbert Bourke (1875-1962).

Edwin was a buffalo hunter, farmer and politician. Later he inherited the Hay Field Farm in St. James from his father. This farm was purchased by his father when it was the Hudson Bay Company's Experimental Farm also called the Colony Farm.



During the scares about possible Fenian raids in 1871, Edwin was chosen as one of the Captains of the volunteer force formed to protect the colony however this was defused by the American Army at the border and came to naught. Edwin was elected as an MLA for the riding of St. James in the Manitoba general election of 1870 and re-elected in 1874. In his later years he served on the St. James Council. His brother Andrew was elected MLA for Baie St. Paul Parish on July 23, 1877. (Contributed by Heather Hallett.)

Hogue, Amable (1833-1892)

Amable was born on May 6, 1833 at St. Charles, the son of Amable Louis Hogue (b. 1796) and Marguerite Taylor (b. 1810). Amable and his step-brother John Simpson were two of the Métis guides who were part of the 1857 Palliser Expedition. John Palliser arranged to employ a number of Métis (12) and other Red River men to assist his scientific party.

²⁰ William served as a private in Middleton's 90th Battalion during the 1885 Northwest Resistance.

In the summer of 1857 the expedition left Lower Fort Garry with horses and carts, and with supplies provided by the Hudson's Bay Company. They continued via the Red River south to the United States border. The expedition then continued through Turtle Mountain, Fort Ellice, Roche Percée, then north along the South Saskatchewan River to Fort Carlton, then along the North Saskatchewan River, where they spent the winter of 1857/1858. In the summer of 1858, Palliser split his expedition into three teams. The two led by Hector and Blakiston began the search for passes through the Rocky Mountains. With five companions (Samuel Ballenden, Robert Sutherland, Joseph Brown, Nimrod, and Peter Erasmus).

The Palliser Expedition, (1857-60), was initiated by John Palliser, who submitted to the Royal Geographical Society a plan to travel from the Red River Colony to and through the Rocky Mountains along the unsurveyed American boundary. The society expanded the project into a scientific expedition and applied for a grant of £5000 from the imperial government, which was then facing the problem of the future of the Hudson's Bay Company territories. They were to explore the old North West Company canoe route west from Lake Superior, the plains south of the North Saskatchewan River and the southern passes through the Rockies and find badly needed information about them. Dr James Hector was appointed geologist and naturalist, Eugene Bourgear botanical collector and John W. Sullivan secretary and astronomical observer. Magnetical observer Lt. Thomas W. Blakiston brought his delicate instruments by way of the Hudson Bay to join them on the prairies.

Amable later married Elizabeth "Betsy" Morrissette (b. 1843). 21

²¹ She married twice: [i] Amable Hogue in 1860; and [ii] Germain Degane in 1899 she died August 7, 1914 in the St Boniface.

Branconnier (Morrissette), Adelaide Caroline (1832-1919).

By Amanda Rozyk.

Adelaide was born on September 6, 1832 in St. Boniface Manitoba, to Jean-Baptiste Branconnier and Elise Louise Beauchemin (b. 1790). Elise's father, André Millet dit Beauchemin was born January 19, 1791 in Quebec, and her mother was an Indian woman. Adelaide's father, Jean Baptiste, was a voyageur with the North West Company. He signed a contract with the company in 1804, and came to the forks of the Red River during that time. In 1815, he was captured and wounded at Fort Gibralter by the Hudson Bay Company. He was placed on a ship, *The Prince of Wales*, and was sent to England to be prosecuted. However, during this voyage a second ship, containing all the evidence and prosecution documents, came into trouble and sank. As a result, Jean Baptiste was released and returned to North America.

Adelaide was raised in St. Boniface and later resided in St. Charles, Assiniboia, in what is now Charleswood. Adelaide was very religious throughout her lifetime. It is recalled that she waited on the banks of the Red River in St. Boniface in order to greet the Grey Nuns upon their arrival.

Adelaide married Jean-Baptiste Morrissette in 1851. Jean-Baptiste was born circa 1828, the son of Arsene Morrissette and Therese [Saulteaux]. It is recalled that Adelaide met Jean-Baptiste when on her way to church in St. Boniface. Adelaide was travelling by horse and sled when her horse became frightened and bolted away. Jean-Baptiste was walking ahead of her party and caught the horse, they were later married. Jean-Baptiste was born in 1819, the son of Arsene Morrissette Sr. and Therésé, an Aboriginal woman.

Adelaide and Jean-Baptiste had at least eleven children and raised their family in St. Charles, Assiniboia, now Charleswood on Lot 73, a community sometimes called Wheat City. Jean-Baptiste worked for the Hudson Bay Company as a labourer on the barges. Adelaide acted as midwife for the St. Charles area. Father Caron recalled that Adelaide had delivered most of the babies in the area. Adelaide died October 31, 1919.

(Contributed by Adelaide's great-great-great granddaughter, Amanda Rozyk.)

Adelaide Branconnier Morrisette. Photo courtesy of Rosemary Morrisette Rozyk



Children of Adelaide and Jean-Baptiste Morrissette:

• Adelaide, born February 26, 1852 at St. Vital. She

- married Robert Miles Bird.
- Caroline, born September 1, 1853 at Charleswood (St. Charles). She married Thomas Bremner.
- Philomene, born December 25, 1854 at Charleswood (St. Charles). She married Hercule Celestin Houde.
- Marguerite, born December 25, 1856 at Charleswood (St. Charles). She married Michel Lecuyer dit curier.
- Marie, born December 26, 1858 at Charleswood (St. Charles). She married Charles Campbell.
- Rose, married George Henry Land.
- Elizabeth, born June 27, 1863 at Charleswood (St. Charles). She died November 29, 1865.
- Pierre, born February 9, 1868 at Charleswood (St. Charles).
- Jean-Baptiste, born March 23, 1871 at Charleswood (St. Charles). He married Marguerite Desjardins, the daughter of Pierre Desjardins and Angelique Welsh. He died on October 7, 1920 at Charleswood (St. Charles).
- Jean-François, born October 5, 1876 at Charleswood (St. Charles). He died on December 20, 1962 at St. Charles.

John "Johnny" Francis Grant. (1831-1907)

In 1867 Johnny Grant sold his ranch, which is now the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Montana,²² and moved to St. Charles now Charleswood, although his main ranching operation in Manitoba was to the south along the Rivière Islets de Bois.

John Francis Grant was a Métis rancher and entrepreneur born January 7, 1831, at Fort Edmonton, the son of Richard Grant a Hudson's Bay Company trader from Montreal and Marie Ann Breland the Métis daughter of a onetime Company employee and Freeman. Johnny was thus related to two famous Métis families, those of Pascal Breland and Cuthbert Grant Jr. Shortly after his birth, Johnny's mother died and he was sent along with his siblings to Quebec to be brought up by their grandmother and aunt. He remained there until at age fourteen (1847), then he and brother Richard returned to the North West to join his father at Fort Hall, Idaho. He learned to trap and hunt, and in 1849 his father sent him to Fort Vancouver to be trained in the fur trade. On returning to Fort Hall his father set him up with a trading outfit. He initially lived with a Shoshone woman, partly to cement trading relations with that group. This became a pattern with him and he is known to have had relations with four different Native women who bore him at least twelve children. In 1861, he built a permanent ranch site at Cottonwood (Deer Lodge Valley) and recruited a number of Métis trading families to join him (Louis Descheneau, Leon Quesnelle, Louis Demers, David Contois, and Michael LeClair).



Grant was quite successful in the Deer Lodge Valley of Montana. In winter he traded with the neighbouring Blackfoot, Shoshone, Bannock, and Flathead Indians, and during spring and summer he went up the Oregon Trail to trade cattle with the immigrants. By the late 1850s he had over 1,000 head of cattle and by 1863 had over 4,000 head and some 3,000 horses. He supplied beef and horses for the Montana gold rush of 1861, and by 1863 his holdings were valued in the neighbourhood of \$150,000. He expanded his businesses by opening a store, saloon, dance hall, gristmill and blacksmith shop as well as a freighting business. Along with the Gold Rush came a criminal element and the advent of taxes in Montana, therefore Grant decided to pull up stakes and move to Manitoba. It is also noteworthy that the year he decided to leave the United States revenue officers seized his 700-gallon stock of alcohol. Grant sold his ranch and herd to Conrad Kohrs for \$19,000 in 1867. The ranch is currently a park: the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site.

²² Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site is located just about half-way between Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, in the town of Deer Lodge, Montana.



Johnny Grant's pouch believed to have been made by his wife Quarra Grant circa 1854-1857. She died of TB in 1867.

Upon arrival at Red River, Grant bought real estate in Winnipeg and bought land for a ranch in the Parish of St. Charles at Riviére aux Ilets des Bois (Carman, Manitoba). He brought a herd of 500 horses, 62 wagons, 12 carts and 106 men with him to Manitoba. He subsequently bought a large herd of cattle from the American Territories to start his ranching operation. He surrounded himself with Métis employees and his closest friends and relatives the Brelands, McKays, Leveilles and Rowands as he had done in Montana. It was here that he entered into his first formal marriage to Clotilde Bruneau, the Métis daughter of a former Judge in the Red River Settlement. As with the Breland and the other Grant families, Johnny did not join the Riel Resistance movement. After 1870, he entered into land speculation with Donald Smith (of the HBC) by buying Métis scrip and by 1882 he owned 13,000 acres. Unfortunately this was bought on credit and when the land boom collapsed in the mid-1800s he was ruined financially and had to sell off most of his holdings.

Johnny Grant's Move from Montana to Red River

Johnny Grant was at Red River during the late 1860s. He decided to wind up his businesses in Deer Lodge Montana²³ and move to Red River. Having successfully wintered stock in the

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²³Where he had built a permanent ranch site at Cottonwood also called Spanish Fork (Deer Lodge Valley) and recruited a number of Métis trading families to join him (Louis Descheneau, Leon Quesnelle, Louis Demers, David Contois, and Michael LeClair). He built two log cabins and corrals at the mouth of the Little Blackfoot River in November, 1859. The location was on a road traveled by several Indian tribes on their way to and from the buffalo country. Grant had a supply of merchandise for sale and traded with the Indians and did a thriving business. The valley made an excellent pasture for the worn out cattle bought from the emigrants on the Overland Trail. When the

Deer Lodge Valley in 1857, Johnny returned there in 1859 and built a home. Hundreds of head of his cattle and horses ranged the valley. He persuaded others, mostly traders, to settle near him, and they founded the town now known as Deer Lodge. Mexican traders numbered among its earliest residents, along with French Canadian Métis families.

He sold his ranch to Conrad Kohrs in 1866 and left his family for several months while he searched for a new place to settle. Choosing the Carmen, Manitoba area, he returned to Deer Lodge. At Red River he hired twelve Métis to return with him to Montana and assist in the move. When he got to Montana he found that his wife, Quarra had died of TB four months earlier.²⁴

These were:

- Malcolm Ross (cousin)²⁵
- Jackson and his wife a daughter of George Munroe
- "Shoshigh" Decoteau, a guide
- Angus McKay, brother of James McKay²⁶
- Augustin Racette²⁷
- Boniface Plante (1846-1954)²⁸
- John Swain²⁹
- Lochlin McLaurin³⁰

Grant says:

When I started for the Red River, quite a number of people came with me from Montana. Some were going to the States and others to the Red River. There were sixty-two wagons and twelve carts, with about five hundred head of horses, two hundred of which were mine. There were one hundred and six men besides women and children. I fed about sixty of the men, and

stock grew fat, herders drove the herds down the trail for resale and the profits were large. Several other men built cabins close by and the settlement was known as Grantsville.

²⁴(d. 2/24/1867). Quarra was a Shoshone, the sister of the noted chief Tenday. She died of tuberculosis at age 27.

²⁵ Malcolm Ross (1847-1909) was the son of George Ross and Catherine Breland. Catherine was the sister of Marie Anne, Pascal and Alexandre Breland.

26 Angus McKay (1836-1897) was the son of James McKay Sr. and Marguerite Gladu. He married Virginie Rolette.

Racette, Augustin (b. 1835) Augustin was the son of Augustin Racette Sr.and Suzanne Groulx. He married Madeleine Parenteau, the daughter of Joseph Parenteau and Suzanne Daigneault. He was one of the Métis buffalo hunters who signed the 1878 petition for a reserve from the Cypress Hills Métis.

²⁸ Born on 1846 to Jean Baptiste Laplante and Madeleine Desfonds. Boniface married Angélique Larocque and had 6 children. He passed away on 1954 in St Boniface Manitoba.

29 Swain (Swan) 11 (2)

Swain (Swane), John "Natumeo". (1829-1885)

John was one of the Métis from Cypress Hills who signed an 1878 petition for their own reserve. John Swain dit Natumeo was born at Lake Manitoba, the son of James Swain Sr. and Josephte Descoteaux. He was married to Louise Laverdure. The Riel family shared the house of his brother James Swain Jr. while living at St. Peter's Mission in Montana. John left Montana and accompanied Riel to Batoche in 1884. John fought during the 1885 Resistance at Batoche and was killed on May 12, the last day of fighting. He is buried at St. Antoine de Padoue Cemetery, Batoche. John was a member of Captain Baptiste Boucher's company, one of the 19 dizaines led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885Métis Resistance.

³⁰ Lauchlin McLaurin was one of Grant's Captains, he was married to Adelina Grant, daughter of Richard Grant and Helene Kittson. He worked at Flathead House.

furnished most of them with horses and some with rifles. I had about thirty rifles, some shot guns and a rifle cannon. I was the leader of the party, the men being divided into squads of ten with a captain over each squad.³¹

Grant sold his remaining cattle in 1891 and moved to Bittern Lake, Alberta in 1892. He homesteaded and lived there for eight years then went to Grande Prairie where he re-entered the fur trade. This did not go well, so he moved to Athabasca Landing and then to Deep Creek. In 1899, when Treaty Eight was signed in northern Alberta he was living in the ceded territory. He then became a spokesman for the children of the Manitoba Métis who had been disqualified from taking scrip because their parents had taken scrip earlier. His petition was not successful however. By 1907 Grant was quite ill and he and his wife moved to Edmonton to live with their daughter and son-in-law. He died there on May first of that year. Before his death he dictated his autobiography to his wife Clotilde. The manuscript, "Very Close to Trouble," was completed in 1909 and is held at the Montana historic site that used to be his ranch. Part of the manuscript has recently been published by Lyndel Meikle (editor) *Very Close to Trouble: The Johnny Grant Memoir* (Pullman: Washington State University Press, 1996). The title of this book "Very Close to Trouble" is a reference to Johnny Grant's attraction and marriages to numerous women. He was devoted to his children and also adopted many abandoned or orphaned children. He ensured that all of his children eventually obtained their Métis scrip.

Children of Johnny Grant:

Children with Aloysia Larpantis, also called Louise (b. 1833), a Shoshone woman.

- Marie Agnes b. 1851 Marie married William Dease, the son of William Dease and Marguerite Genthon.
- Marie Jane was born August 1854 in Fort Hall district, Idaho Territory; died circa.
 1903 in St Daniel, Manitoba. She married Norman McIver circa. 1873 in Ile de Bois district, near St Daniel, Manitoba.
- Louise (Aloysia) b. c. 1855 at Deer Lodge.
- Richard b. c. 1858: Richard married Rosalie Hogue in 1881 at St. Charles.

Children with unknown mother:

Mary Grant aka Mary Dempsey, born November 28, 1854, in Montana the daughter
of Johnny Grant and an unknown woman. She was adopted by Robert and Margaret
Dempsey (Sister of Johnny Grant's wife, Quarra, and of Chief Tendoy. She married
Dr. Jacob Cline.

Children with Quarra (b.c. 1840, d. 2/24/1867). Quarra was a Shoshone, the sister of the noted chief Tenday. She died of tuberculosis at age 27.

- William b. 10/1/ 1856
- David b. 10/17/1858
- Julienne b. 1/7/1860
- John b.c. 1862

³¹ Gerhard J. Ens (Ed.), *John Francis Grant, A Son of the Fur Trade: The Memoirs of Johnny Grant*, Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2008: 170.

- Ellen b. c. 1863, d. 1/19/1868
- Charles Henri b.c. 1866

Children with Isabel Lucier (also Ruis) (described as a Blackfoot Half-Breed). She later married Captain D.W. Buck.

- Emma b. 1862, married Isaac Cooper.
- James or Joseph b. 3/6/1869 James married Marie Sarah "Jane" Delorme at Red River.
- Isabella married Philip Carr.

Children with Clothild Bruneau (b. 1850 at St. Boniface) married May 7, 1868.

- Charles Alexander b. 5/30/1869. He married Annie Sparks in 1907 at Edmonton.
- Marguerite Marie Anne b. 12/15/1870, died as an infant
- James b. c. 1871, died as an infant.
- Sarah b.c. 1874, married Colin Fraser Lennie.
- Maria, b. 1874, married Frank Nutt, in 1894 at Edmonton.
- Alice b. c. 1878, d. Feb. 1951
- Marie Corinne d. 3/23/1883
- Francis baptized and interred 5/9/1881



Child with Cecile Boyer.

• Cecile Welsh b. c. 1867

Children with Lily Bruneau, sister of Clothilde.

- Sara b. c. 1870
- Clara b. c. 1872

Adopted children: While in Montana Johnny adopted an orphaned Bannock Indian boy and brought him to Manitoba, he ensured that the boy got Métis scrip. Johnny also adopted three Afro-American Métis children, a boy and two girls, the orphans of Phil Barnes and his Shoshone wife. He left the oldest girl in Montana when he moved to Manitoba. It was John/Jack and Annie Barnes who came with him.

In Montana the La Vatta family (Thomas and Angélique) had worked with Johnny Grant. They were one of the many families who accompanied him on his move to Manitoba. Thomas LaVatta was known as the "Red Headed Spaniard," he was a freighter and trader. His wife Angélique was called Poor-Oh-Ge in Shoshone. Ultimately, they did not like Manitoba and returned first to Idaho and later moved to the Fort Hall Reservation. Their children Laura Delores LaVatta and Edward LaVatta remained in Canada with Johnny Grant and were educated at St. Boniface. Laura married Johnny's nephew, Joseph Richard Grant, however she died in 1885. She applied for Métis scrip (attested to by her adoptive father Johnny Grant) and the application was approved. Edwards' scrip application was not approved, he likely returned to join his family in Idaho before this could happen.

Philip Vasquez-Grant was another adopted child who accompanied Johnny to Manitoba. Philip was the son of Emilie Langie Grant; Johnny's widowed sister-in-law, who had married Pike Vasquez in California.³² The marriage did not last long. Philip used the Grant surname almost exclusively. John F. Grant successfully applied for scrip on Philip's behalf. Philip left Manitoba for Philadelphia in 1910.

Métis Scrip:

Scrip affidavit for Grant, John F.; born: January 7, 1831; father: Richard Grant (Canadian); mother: Marie Ann Breland (Métis); claim no: 943; date of issue: July 18, 1876.

Scrip affidavit for Grant, Clotilde, wife of John F. Grant; born: 1850; father: François Bruneau (Métis); mother: Margaret Harrison (Métis); claim no: 944; date of issue: July 18, 1876

Scrip affidavit for Dease, Marie Agnes; wife of Wm. Dease; born: 1851; father: John Grant (Métis); mother: Louise (Indian); claim no.: 1815; date of issue: Sept. 20, 1876

Scrip affidavit for McIver, Jane (nee Grant); wife of Norman McIver; born: August 1854; father: John Grant; mother: Louise (Indian) Affidavit states Jane Grant; St. Charles; Selkirk; wife of Normand McIver; HB Child; Born: August 1854; NWT; Father: John Grant (HB) [is] of St. Charles; 15 July 1870; Mother: Louise (Indian) [was]; French; Jane McIver (x); 18 August 1875; Supporting affidavits from: Ambroise Jobin (x); farmer; Michel Proulx (x). C-14931

Scrip affidavit for Grant, Richard; born: 1 December 1857; father: John Grant; mother: Louise (Indian).

20

³² Scrip affidavit for Grant, Richard Jr.; born: 7 September 1848; father: Richard Grant (deceased); mother: Emilie Lange (French Canadian). The son of Emilie Grant and Pike Vasquez, born in California.

Scrip affidavit for Grant, Charles; born: 30 May 1869; father: John F. Grant; mother: Clotilde Bruneau.

Scrip affidavit for Grant, Margaret Marie Anne; born: 15 December 1870; father: John Francis Grant, the deponent; mother: Clotilde Bruneau.

Scrip affidavit for Grant, John F., concerning the claims of his children: David J. Grant, born: 17 October 1858; John Grant, born: 16 October 1861; Julienne Grant, born: 7 January 1860.

Scrip affidavit for Grant, John F., concerning the claims of his children: Emma Grant, born: 22 September 1862; & James Grant, born: 6 March 1869. (mother Isabelle Lussier)

Scrip affidavit for Barnes, Joph; born: 1858; father: Philip Barnes; mother: An Indian; Deponent: John F. Grant Foster; father of that child.

Grant Family Manitoba Land Holdings:

John Grant:

NW Quarter, Sec. 27, Township 6, Range 4.

SW Quarter, Sec. 27, Township 6, Range 4.

NE Quarter, Sec. 28, Township 6, Range 4. (Homestead quarter)

SE Quarter, Sec. 28, Township 6, Range 4. (Métis grant Sec. 32 of Manitoba Act.)

SW Quarter, Sec. 2, Township 7, Range 4. (Cattle Depot)

Lot 86, Parish of Baie St. Paul (1884)

Lot 92, Parish of St. François Xavier.

Clothilde Grant:

SE Quarter Sec. 27, Township 6, Range 4.

SW Quarter, Sec. 2, Township 8, Range 1.

Lot 156, Parish of St. François Xavier.

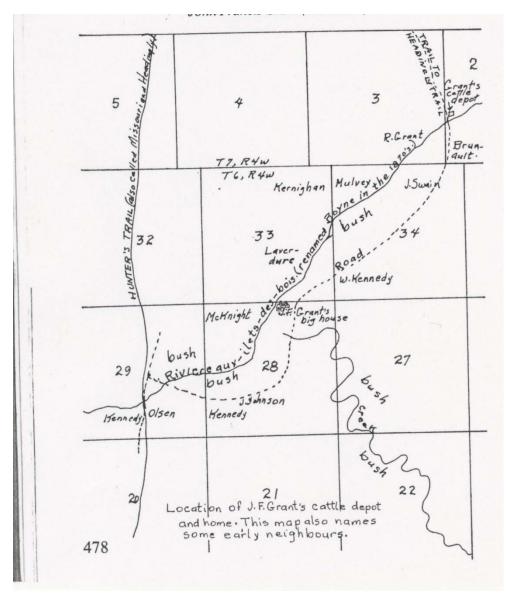
John Grant (b. Oct. 10, 1861, Deer Lodge, Montana, died 1939). Son of John Grant and Quarra "Cora".

NE Quarter, Sec. 23, Township 7, Range 5.

NE Quarter, Sec. 36, Township 7, Range 5. (Homestead, quarter)

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Map of 1872 Survey showing John Grant's land. From the R.M. of Dufferin (community history) 1982: 23.



Map showing Grant's home and Cattle Depot From the R.M. of Dufferin (community history) 1982: 478.

Reference;

Meikle, Lyndel (editor) *Very Close to Trouble: The Johnny Grant Memoir*. Pullman: Washington State University Press, 1996.

McMillan, William (1806-1903)

Two of William McMillan's children lived in St. Charles now Charleswood: Joseph who was married to Appoline Bruce, Marguerite who was married to Jean-Baptiste Beauchemin and Philomène who was married to Thomas Hogue.

William McMillan was born in 1806 at Fort Edmonton, the son of James McMillan³³ (1783-1858) who was married to and Josephte Belisle³⁴ (b. 1786). William was one of four Métis children of James MacMillan (H.B.C. and N.W.C. factor). He was first a buffalo hunter at Fort Edmonton. He settled at Red River in 1830s. William married Margaret Dease (1818-1912) the daughter of John Warren Dease. William was active in the Métis free trade movement and signed the Métis Petition for Special Rights in 1845 and the 1849 and 1850 letters to HBC Governor George Simpson which requested a Métis representative on the Red River Council. He died at Winnipeg in 1903.

William married Marguerite "Margaret" Dease (1818-1912), the daughter of John Warren Dease (also an HBC Chief Trader) and Genevieve Beignet in 1838. They had nine children:

- Margaret, born 1840, married Jean Baptiste Beauchemin
- Marie Anne, born 1842, married Salomon Carriere.
- Philomène, born 1847, married Thomas Hogue.
- Joseph, born 1849, married Appoline Bruce.
- Virginie, born 1851, married Daniel Carrière.
- Sarah, born 1854, married Joseph Turcotte, then Pierre Jobin, then Antoine Vandal.
- Patrick, born 1856, married Beatrice Caplette.
- John, born 1858, married Sara Bruce.
- Elizabeth, born 1859, married Pierre Bruce.

Raised by his mother in the vicinity of Fort des Prairies (Edmonton), he became an accomplished hunter like many of the Métis sons of fur traders. In 1825, Governor Simpson noted that William, age eighteen, was 'the boy of Mr. James MacMillan Chief Trader and was under no agreement with the company but never the less [would] ... do anything the company require[d] of him,' and that 'he was born and brought up at the N.W. Co Fort. By 1826 William McMillan had become a contract employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, as a middleman on the York boats. He retired as a bowsman in 1835.'

Obituary:

Manitoba Free Press: Thursday, October 01st 1903 Edition.

DEATH OF THE FIRST FREE FUR TRADER:

William McMillan, who was born at Fort Edmonton 103 years ago, died on Tuesday night at St James - Witnessed remarkable progress of civilization - Survived by his Wife.

³³ James McMillan was a NWC and HBC fur trader, first Chief Trader then Chief Factor at Fort Langley. McMillan went on to become a Chief Factor at the HBC's Red River Settlement, and he was brought in to manage a failed experimental farm at St. James. McMillan and Belisle had a second son, James, born in 1808. They then separated. Josephte then married Louis Amable Fafard dit Delorme by custom in 1815 and formally in 1832 (they had a further five children and their son Pierre later became an M.P.). McMillan subsequently married Marie Letendre, Marguerite Kilakotah Clatsoppe and Ellen McKinley (from Scotland). He had a further seven children with these

³⁴ Josephte was the daughter of Antoine Belisle (b. 1760) and Josephte Belly (b. 1772).

When early residents of this county, whether native-born or immigrants, die it always is considered that a link between the past and present has been severed. Many of these links have been broken during the past quarter of a century - but, a summons came from the angel of death Tuesday night to one who may be regarded as "the anchor of the broken chain:, for there has as yet been no record of any person living through so many years in Western Canada - or witnessing so many events of historical interest in his native country. And, in other lands, longevity is not rare among the native people of the Northwest; but, nevertheless, it is seldom that a chronicler sets for his pen a subject who has lived through a complete century, and into another.

Such a person has just passed away in the parish of St James, the western suburb of Winnipeg; and, though he has lived a house close to the main highway for the past forty years, there are not more than a score of people here now who knew him - or knew of him.

This person was William McMillan, once a famous buffalo hunter and fur trader in the "great lone land". The son of one of the first chief factors of the Hudson's Bay Company in the far Northwest, he was born in the Edmonton district in the year of 1700 or 1800. His father was a Scotch man, who married a Native woman of French extraction; and being inbred with the characteristic desire of his race for the well-being of children he brought his son to St Boniface at the age of 33 years, on hearing to the presence of priests at Red River to have his son baptized by the late Archbishop Provencher - the first Catholic bishop to come to this country.

His father, not wanting him to grow up among the Indians in the far West, left at St Boniface - deeming that it would be better for him to live under that little flame of civilization than to grow up among the savages of the plains. In those days the chief occupation of the few people who lived in the Red River Colony was trading and buffalo hunting; and, it was natural that young McMillan should fall in with the customs of the times.

HE WAS A HUNTER:

He became a hunter at first, but the instinct of his Scotch blood asserted itself and he began trading on his own account; and was the first free trader in the vicinity - though, his scope of business was confined to the position of "middleman" between his hunting companions and the Hudson's Bay Company. He was noted on the plains for his horsemanship and for his skill as a hunter; and, was always chosen as a leader or captain of the boats.

In those days, the Indians knew no law but that of the Hudson's Bay Company and were ever watching for a chance to raid the camps of the traders. The Sioux were the chief audiences and Mr. McMillan often told of the fights the buffalo hunters had with these bold and warlike aborigines in the Souris and Qu'Appelle districts. These encounters were frequently of a revolutionary nature and scouts, and traders, had to constantly on guard against surprise or ambush. His experience in this wild life on the prairies qualified McMillan as a guide; and, he had the distinction of being chosen on several occasions to escort titled gentlemen from the Old Country who came to hunt buffalo, half a century ago.

MARRIED MISS DEASE:

When living in St Boniface as a young man, he fell in love with Miss Dease - a young girl of fifteen years of age, the daughter of a Hudson's Bay Company factor; after whom Dease Lake in British Columbia is named, and his affections being reciprocated they were married though, at the time, the bride's friends told her that "she was marrying her grandfather".

Twelve children of this union, of whom nine survive: three sons and six daughters. The sons are Joseph, John and Patrick; and are living at St James and all farmers. The daughters are: Mrs. Thomas Hogg of LaSalle, Mrs. B. Carrier of Clarkleigh, Mrs. D. Carrier of St Eustache, and Mrs. Pierre Bruce of St James. Mrs. Beauchemin is the eldest child and is 63 years old. The youngest child is 38 years old.

He is also survived by his wife, who is only 86 years of age. In addition to his sons and daughters, there are many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. All of whom are hardworking and industrious, and are highly respected in the communities in which they live.

Forty years ago Mr. McMillan purchased a couple of hundred acres of land in St James, just beyond Lord Strathcona's Silver Heights Farm, and made that his home up to the time of his death. He taught his children farming, but continued himself in the fur trade business until late in the seventies when the business ceased to be profitable.

BLIND FOR 20 YEARS:

About twenty years ago he was deprived of his eyesight and, since then, he remained home; only making short visits to his children and friends who lived nearby. He retained his mental faculties up to a couple of weeks ago to a remarkable degree and was active until a month prior to his death, when dissolution began to appear.

During his whole life he enjoyed robust health and scarcely knew what sickness was. He was a man of high moral character and deeply religious, being a devout member of the Roman Catholic Church. Being a native it may appear remarkable but it is a fact that he never used tobacco and only drank liquor when it was offered at social gatherings, and then never took more than one glass. During the past 40 years, he did not taken ten glasses of liquor. He used snuff up to three years ago. It was one of his proudest boasts that, "he never knew what it was, to be intoxicated".

A RETROSPECT:

A retrospect of the period through which McMillan lived is interesting. George Washington was only one year dead, when William McMillan was born. He was nine years old, when Abraham Lincoln was born; and nineteen years old, when Queen Victoria came into the world. He was fifteen years old when the Battle of Waterloo was fought; George III was still King of England and reigned twenty years afterward - so, that the deceased lived in the reign of five British Monarchs.

He was twelve years of age when Lord Selkirk brought his first party of Scotch Colonists to the

Red River. When he was still a youth, Montreal was a mere Village and Toronto did not exist. Where Winnipeg now stands, there were Indian trading posts - a vantage point contested for by the rival fur companies and the Western limit of the Settlement in the United States was still east of the Ohio River. There were no railroads, in fact none of the modern conveniences which people of today consider indispensable.

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT CENSUS

An Index to the Census for the years 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1835, 1838, 1840 and 1843.

Branconnier, Jean-Baptiste

BRACONNIER, Jean-Baptiste #26, Baptiste Braconnier, age _, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 woman, 3 daughters (-15), 5 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 horse, 1 mare, 1 cow, 1 calf, 3 pigs, 1 cart, 1 harrow, 4 acres. (1830 E.5/4) page 4.

- #_, Bapte. Braconnier, age 36, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 1 son (-16), 3 daughters (-15), 6 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 mare, 3 cows, 2 calves, 4 pigs, 1 harrow, 3 acres. (1831 E.5/5) page 3.
- #44, J. Bte. Brasconnier, age 37, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 1 son (-16), 3 daughters (-15), 6 totalinhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 mare, 1 ox, 3 cows, 2 calves, 10 pigs, 1 harrow, 1 cart, 2 canoes, 8 acres. (1832 E.5/6) page 3.
- #_, Bre. Braconnier, age 38, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 1 son (-16), 4 daughters (-15), 7 total inhabitants, 2 houses, 1 stable, 2 horses, 1 mare, 3 oxen, 4 cows, 3 calves, 10 pigs, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 1 cart, 1 canoe, 4 acres. (1833 E.5/7) page 3.
- #40, J. Btse. Brasconnier, age 44, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 2 sons (-16), 4 daughters (-15), 8 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 3 oxen, 3 cows, 4 calves, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 2 carts, 1 canoe, 6 acres. (1835 E.5/8) page 2.
- #57, Baptiste Brasconnier, age 44 [sic], Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 3 sons (-16), 1 daughter (+15), 2 daughters (-15), 8 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 barn, 2 horses, 3 oxen, 5 cows, 2 calves, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 4 carts, 2 canoes, 10 acres. (1838 E.5/9) page 5.
- #52, Baptiste Brasconnier, age 46, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 4 sons (-16), 2 daughters (-15), 1 male servant, 9 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 horse, 1 mare, 4 oxen, 4 cows, 3 calves, 10 pigs, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 3 carts, 1 canoe, 9 acres. (1840 E.5/10) page 5.
- #53, Baps. Brasconnier, age 49, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 1 son (+16), 3 sons (-16), 2 daughters (+15), 2 daughters (-15), 10 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 2 horses, 1 mare, 2 oxen, 1 bull, 4 cows, 3 calves, 5 pigs, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 4 carts, 1 canoe, 9 acres. (1843 E.5/11) page 3

BRACONNIER. Amable

#41, Amable Brasconnier, age 36, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 3 daughters (-15), 5 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 ox, 2 cows, 2 calves, 3 pigs, 1 harrow, 1 canoe, 6 acres. (1835 E.5/8) page 2.

BREMNER, Alexander

- #_, Alexr. Bremner, age 40, Orkney, Protestant, 1 married man, 1 unmarried man, 1 married woman, 1 unmarried woman, 4 sons (-16), 3 daughters (-15), 11 total inhabitants, 1. house, 1 stable, 1 ox, 4 cows, 1 calf, 9 pigs, 10 acres. Grantown. (1833 E.5/7) page 20.
- #13, Alexr. Bremner, age 42, Scotland [sic], Protestant, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 4 sons (-16), 4 daughters (-15), 10 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 horse, 2 oxen, 5 cows, 3 calves, 8 pigs, 10 acres. Living on Sturgeon Creek. White Horse Plains or Grantown. (1835 E.5/8) page 24.

#56, Alexander Bremner, age 35 [sic], Orkney, Protestant, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 2 sons (+16), 4 sons (-16), 1 daughter (+15), 3 daughters (-15), 12 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 barn, 1 horse, 2 mares, 5 oxen, 1 bull, 3 cows, 2 calves, 20 pigs, 1 plough, 2 harrows, 3 carts, 1 canoe, 10 acres. (1838 E.5/9) page 5.

#51, Alexander Bremner, age 37, Scotland [sic], Protestant, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 2 sons (+16), 4 sons (-16), 3 daughters (-15), 11 total inhabitants, 2 houses, 1 stable, 1 barn, 1 horse, 2 mares, 5 oxen, 1 bull, 4 cows, 9 calves, 20 pigs, 1 plough, 2 harrows, 4 carts, 1 canoe, 20 acres. (1840 E.5/10) page 5.

BREMNER, Joseph

- #_, Lot _, Joseph Bremner, age 27, Protestant, Scotland, 1 married man, 1 woman, 2 cows, 1 calf, 2 swine, with G. McKay. (1828 E.5/2) page 8.
- #24, Joseph Bremner, age 32, Scotland, Protestant, 1 married man, 1 woman, 1 daughter (-15), 3 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 barn, 3 cows, 4 oxen, 1 calf, 2 pigs, 1 cart, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 1 canoe, 4 acres. Living with him, Protestant, 1 unmarried man. (1830 E.5/4) page 3.
- #_, Joseph Bremner, age 30, Scotland, Protestant, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 1 daughter (-15), 3 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 barn, 1 ox, 2 cows, 1 calf, 4 pigs, 1 canoe, 3 acres. (1831 E.5/5) page 2.
- #42, Joseph Bremner, age 31, Scotland, Protestant, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 1 daughter (-15), 3 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 barn, 1 ox, 4 cows, 2 calves, 2 pigs, 1 harrow, 1 cart, 1 canoe, 3 acres. (1832 E.5/6) page 3.
- #_, Joseph Bremner, age 32, Scotland, Protestant, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 1 son (-16), 1 daughter (+15), 4 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 barn, 2 oxen, 3 cows, 2 calves, 2 pigs, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 1 canoe, 4 acres. (1833 E.5/7) page 3.
- #38, Joseph Bremner, age 36, Scotland, Protestant, 1 unmarried man, 1 son (-16), 1 daughter (-15), 3 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 barn, 4 oxen, 4 cows, 4 calves, 2 pigs, 1 harrow, 1 cart, 1 canoe, 2 acres. (1835 E.5/8) page 2.

HOGUE, Amable

- #218, Amable Hogue, age 40, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 3 sons (-16), 1 daughter (-15), 6 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 mare, 3 oxen, 3 cows, 1 calf, 5 pigs, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 1 cart, 6 acres. (1835 E.5/8) page 9.
- #245, Amable Hoggue, age 43, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 2 sons (-16), 3 daughters (-15), 7 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 mare, 4 oxen, 4 cows, 3 calves, 4 pigs, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 3 carts, 6 acres. (1838 E.5/9) page 15.
- #261, Amable Hogue, age 45, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 3 sons (-16), 3 daughters (-15), 8 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 barn, 1 horse, 1 mare, 3 oxen, 3 cows, 2 calves, 4 pigs, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 5 carts, 10 acres. (1840 E.5/10) page 14.
- #249, Amable Hoggue, age 48, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 5 sons (-16), 3 daughters (-15), 10 total inhabitants, 1 house, 2 stables, 1 barn, 1 horse, 1 mare, 4 oxen, 3 cows, 4 calves, 6 pigs, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 4 carts, 1 canoe, 14 acres. (1843 E.5/11) page 11. Morrissette, Baptiste

MORISSETTE, Bte.

#_, Lot _ , Bte. Morissette, age 38, Roman Catholic, Canada, 1 married man, 1 woman, 2 sons (-16), 1 daughter (-15), 1 acre. (1829 E.5/3) page 11.

MC MILLAN, William

#395, William McMillan, age _, Native, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 2 total inhabitants, 4 horses, 5 mares. Lives with Widow Delorme. (1838 E.5/9) page 22.

#415, William McMillan, age _, Native, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 2 total inhabitants, 4 horses, 2 mares, 1 plough. Lives with Wid. Delorme. (1840 E.5/10) page 21.

#394, Willm. McMillan, age _, Ruperts Land, Catholic, 1married man, 1 married woman, 2 sons (-16), 3 daughters (+15), 2 daughters (-15), 9 total inhabitants, 1 house, 2 stables, 1 barn, 5 horses, 1 mare, 7 oxen, 4 cows, 2 calves, 9 pigs, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 6 carts, 6 acres. (1843 E.5/11) page 16.

VIVIER, Alexis Jr.

#38, Alexis Vivier Jun., age _, Ruperts Land, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 woman, 1 son (-16), 2 daughters (-15), 5 total inhabitants. Resides with Hugh Ross. Village of Grantown or White Horse Plains (1830 E.5/4) page 16.

#_, Alexis Vivier Jr., age _, Ruperts Land, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 1 son (-16), 3 total inhabitants, 1 house. Village of Grantown or White Horse Plains (1831 E.5/5) page 18.

#57, Alexis Vivier Jr., age 25, Ruperts Land, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 1 son (-16), 1 daughter (-15), 4 total inhabitants, 1 house. White Horse Plains or Grantown. (1832 E.5/6) page 23.

#_, Alex. Vivier, age 27, Ruperts Land, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 1 son (-16), 1 daughter (-15), 4 total inhabitants, 1 house. Grantown. (1833 E.5/7) page 23.

#98, Alex. Vivier, age 28, Native, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 1 son (-16), 2 daughters (-15), 5 total inhabitants, 1 horse. White Horse Plains or Grantown. (1835 E.5/8) page 29.

#86, Alexis, age 32, Native, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 3 sons (-16), 1 daughter (+15), 3 daughters (-15), 9 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, Grantown, (1838 E.5/9) page 37.

#119, Alexis Vivier, age _, Native, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 3 sons (-16), 2 daughters (+15), 3 daughters (-15), 10 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 horse. Grantown. (1840 E.5/10) page 34.

#138, Alexis Vivier, age _, Ruperts Land, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 4 sons (-16), 3 daughters (-15), 9 total inhabitants, 1 house. Grantown. (1843 E.5/11) page 2.

[Welsh] WELLS, Xavier

#555, Xavier Wells, age 41, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 1 daughter (-15), 3 total 3 oxen. Lives with Sauvé. (1838 E.5/9) page 32.

#579, Xavier Wells, age 43, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 2 daughters (-15), 4 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 2 oxen, 1 cart. (1840 E.5/10) page 29.

#588, Xavier Wells, age 46, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 2 sons (-16), 3 daughters (-15), 7 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 ox, 1 cow, 1 calf, 2 pigs, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 1 cart, 1 canoe, 6 acres. (1843 E.5/11) page 24.

WELLS, Xavier

#555, Xavier Wells, age 41, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 1 daughter (-15), 3 total 3 oxen. Lives with Sauvé. (1838 E.5/9) page 32.

#579, Xavier Wells, age 43, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 2 daughters (-15), 4 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 2 oxen, 1 cart. (1840 E.5/10) page 29.

#588, Xavier Wells, age 46, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 2 sons (-16), 3 daughters (-15), 7 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 ox, 1 cow, 1 calf, 2 pigs, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 1 cart, 1 canoe, 6 acres. (1843 E.5/11) page 24.