

Monet dit Belhumeur, Gregoire. (1854-1931)

Gregoire was born at St. Joseph on December 16, 1854 in what was then the Nebraska Territory (Minnesota was not yet a state). This district was known as the Paubian District for many years afterwards, and St. Joseph later became LeRoy, North Dakota. Gregoire was the second youngest son of Michael and Susan Brière Monette.

His father, Michel Monet, was born at White Horse Plains in 1802, the son of Michel Monet Sr. and Marguerite Grant. His father's first wife Josephthe, was a Chippewa Indian, the sister of Chief Little Shell. They were married at St. François Xavier in February 5, 1839. They went by Red River cart to Missouri, Montana where Michael obtained a government position. They lived there until 1843, when the Sioux killed his wife (whose people were at war with them). He then took his five children and headed back to rejoin the Chippewa and Half-Breed hunters of the plains. They were successful in meeting up with a mixed band of several hundred Chippewa and Métis hunters at Devil's Lake.

Michael returned with the northern group to White Horse Plains where he chose a Chippewa-French wife, Josephthe Brière (Bruyere). He returned after the hunting season to St. Joseph with the five children from his first marriage and Baptiste the first child of his marriage to Susan. (Baptiste was the oldest brother of Gregoire who was one of seven children born to Susan).

Gregoire's wife, Philomene Welkie (Wilkie), was born at St. Joseph in 1863 the daughter of Jeabn Baptiste Wilkie and Isabelle Patenaude. They married on February 16, 1877 at St. Joseph. She was the grand-daughter of the distinguished Chief Jean Baptiste Wilkie, who for many years was Chief of all the Chippewa and Métis hunters of the Paubian and Turtle Mountain regions. Her mother was Isabelle Patenaude (also Chippewa-Métis). Her aunt, Madeleine Wilkie Dumont, was the daughter of Jean--Baptiste Wilkie and was married to Gabriel Dumont. While living in Olga during the 1880s and '90s Gabriel Dumont often stayed with their family. Later, they moved to Langdon and Gregoire wrote a story in 1917 about the life of he and his father and their experiences around Olga dating back to 1835.¹

Monet's daughter, Mary Petronile Monet (b. 1879) was married to William Cuthbert Grant; daughter Rosalie Monet (b. 1881) was married to James Grant; daughter Marie Clara (b. 1887) was married to Patrice Vandal, and daughter, Emma Monet (b. 1889) was married to John Patrice Delorme.

Reference

St. Ann's Centennial Committee. *St. Ann's Centennial 1885-1985*. Belcourt, North Dakota: St. Ann's Centennial Committee, 1985: 228-239.

¹ Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church of Olga. *Olga, North Dakota: Olga Centennial:1882-1982*. Olga: authors, 1982: 169-170.



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