

**Arthur Baptiste LaPier.** (b. 1905)

Arthur was the son of François-Xavier Lapierre (b. 1850) and Marie Rose Swain, the daughter of James Swain and Marie Arcand. His parents were married on March 25, 1879 at St. Peters, Montana.

Arthur Baptiste LaPier, the great-grandson of Antoine LaPierre was born at Ford Creek in 1905 and raised in the Dearborn Canyon. His first languages were French and Cree. He learned the old Métis music and songs from his grandmother Mary Rose (Swain) LaPier and began playing the fiddle when he was twelve. When Art turned 15 in 1920, Frank (formerly François) LaPier gave his grandson the fiddle he had brought with him to Montana. It was a fiddle that François played at dances at St. Peter's Mission during the 1870's and later at Ford Creek and the Dearborn.<sup>1</sup>

Family scrip;

LaPierre, François-Xavier; heir to his deceased children; Genevieve, born: 2 June, 1883 at Cypress Hills; died: 1890 on the Prairie; Rosy, born: 13 Sept., 1885 near Cypress Hills; died: 1890 on the Prairie; address: Chateau, Montana; father: François Xavier LaPierre (Métis and deponent); mother: Marie Rose Swan (Métis); scrip cert.: form D, nos. 1410 and 1412; claim no. 1477.

Swain, Marie - Concerning her claim as a child - Address, Duck Lake - Born, 3 February, 1862 at St. François Xavier - Father, James Swain, (Métis) - Mother, Marie Arcand, (Métis) - Married, 1878 at Sun River to François Xavier Lapierre - Children living, three - Scrip for \$240 - Claim 1308.

Lapierre, John; address: Augusta, Montana; claim no. 1502; born: 15 Aug., 1881 between Cypress and Wood Mountain; father: Francois Lapierre (Métis); mother: Mary Rose Swan (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 970.

Landry, Therese; address: Augusta, Montana; claim no. 1416; born: Dec., 1878 at Cypress Hills; father: Francois Lapierre (Métis); mother: Marie Rose Swan (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 918.

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<sup>1</sup> Rosalyn R. LaPier. *Métis life Along Montana's Front Range*.



Photo by Roberta Donovan

## Art LaPier warms up for Fiddle Dance

### Antique still fiddles

LEWISTOWN — Art LaPier plays a fine fiddle which is in fine shape for its age.

LaPier, who won the state fiddler's contest this past June, was in Lewistown Friday night to provide the music for the Metis Centennial celebration which lasts through Monday.

LaPier, who is a Matis — a descendant of French trappers and Chippewa-Cree Indians, took part in the Fiddle Dance using the instrument handed down through his family.

LaPier does not know exactly how old the fiddle is, but says that his grandfather Frank LaPier used it to play for dances at St. Peter's Mission in 1876.

St. Peter's Mission was located on the Missouri River below the mouth of the Dearborn River near present-day Cascade.

LaPier has had the fiddle since 1920, and has been offered "a lot of money for it", but he refuses to part with it.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell  
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