

## Riel's Prisoners (1869-70)

In anticipation of the transfer of Manitoba to Canada, the minister of public works, William McDougall, who along with George Etienne Cartier had been instrumental in securing Rupert's Land for Canada, ordered a survey party to the Red River Colony.

Bishop Taché, Anglican Bishop of Rupert's land, Robert Machray, and the HBC governor of Assiniboia William MacTavish all warned the government that such surveys would precipitate unrest. Headed by Colonel John Stoughton Dennis, the survey party arrived at Red River on August 20, 1869.

In 1869, Major Boulton had joined the survey party led by John Stoughton Dennis that was sent in anticipation of a rush of settlers to the region after its annexation to Canada. When the Métis under Louis Riel resisted the imposition of Canadian rule, Boulton was called upon by Dennis to organize volunteers to put down the uprising. Dominion Government chief engineer, Lindsay Russell, issued a proclamation calling on all loyal citizens to protect the government property (the pork and beans in Schultz's store). Early in December about 50 of the volunteers barricaded themselves in a building belonging to John Christian Schultz.<sup>1</sup>

As noted, the armed Canadian Volunteers ended up barricaded inside Schultz's drugstore — an indefensible and somewhat ludicrous position. Their activity had been watched from Upper Fort Garry. 'Fort Schultz' was surrounded and A.G.B. Bannatyne passed a note to those inside with an order: "to give up their arms and surrender themselves. Their lives will be spared should they comply. In case of refusal, all the English half-breeds and other natives, women and children, are at liberty to depart unmolested." Within 15 minutes, the Canadians opted to surrender. Dennis left the settlement shortly afterwards. Boulton, who had hoped to establish Canadian authority, lost his nerve after the capture of the volunteers and Dennis's departure. He decided to winter at the predominantly Canadian settlement of Portage la Prairie.

Peter MacArthur reported:

About forty-five of us, mostly young newcomers, responded; the British flag was raised and oath of loyalty administered. The rest of the 12,000 inhabitants of Red River were not interested for a number of reasons, the most obvious of which was that the guns of the fort, about 200 yards distant, were trained on the cache of provisions, where the company of volunteers made their headquarters.

Louis Riel then invited us all over to the fort for a conference and made us prisoners. We were taken to the upper floor of the courthouse and lodged in various rooms in groups of six or eight. Looking out of the windows we could see cannon being trained on our prison and we sent two men to see what terms could be arranged with Riel. These two men were Thomas Scott and Alex McArthur, my brother. Scott was retained and McArthur returned with the report that the only terms were unconditional surrender. The unmarried men, about forty of us,

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<sup>1</sup> Norma Hall reports: The Canadian Volunteer Militia who signed on for 6 shillings a day, had been formed under Dennis who made Lower Fort Garry his headquarters. The Volunteers had begun to drill and to prepare uniforms. At Portage la Prairie they were organized under 'Captain' Webb — who had been ostensibly at Red River as leader of a survey crew.

were taken to the common jail outside the fort, which was enclosed in a stockade, and during the tedious weeks of imprisonment which followed, we put in the time story-telling, joking, singing, or any way we could. The guards were not rough with us and Riel had reason to complain of their humanity and tried to show by his example ferocity proper to the occasion. This is why Scott was ordered shot. Scott's death was a great shock to us; he had said loudly and openly what the rest of us quietly thought.<sup>2</sup>

Subsequently, in mid-February some Canadians who had escaped from their Métis captors and fled to Portage la Prairie determined to march on Upper Fort Garry to rescue the remaining prisoners. Boulton tried unsuccessfully to restrain the "hotheads," including Charles Mair and Thomas Scott. In an attempt to keep them out of trouble he gradually assumed leadership of the group, which planned to unite with another led by Schultz. The Métis had no difficulty containing the poorly controlled Canadians and took most of them, including Boulton, prisoner. He and three others were sentenced to be executed but were spared through the intervention of leaders in the Red River community. Upon his release from prison on 16 March 1870 Boulton returned to Ontario.

The list of prisoners shown below comes from Henry Woodington, "Diary of a Prisoner in Red River Rebellion," *Niagara Historical Society* 25 (1913):

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<sup>2</sup> Peter MacArthur's account; "The Red River Rebellion," *Manitoba Pageant*, Spring 1973, Vol. 18, Number 3.

hold of another and throwing him down or against the wall, yelling "pile on." Then there is a general rush to the scene, and pity the poor fellow that gets under. The most exciting and amusing one occurred on the 1st inst. It began by a discussion about the Irish and the Scotch, and an attempt was made by one side to expel the other.

#### Description of the Provisional Government's Flag.

It is made of white Duffle, 2x3 feet in size. There are three fleur de luce or flower of France ——across the surface with a shamrock in the centre of the bottom edge..

#### JAIL SCENES.

Frying pemican. A number around the stove, with tin plates, in which is a mixture of pemican and water, each striving for a place at the stove; a number more waiting their time, cursing their luck that they were too late; a number more with large pocket knives gathered round a large lump of pemican, each striving to prepare his mess; a number more making tea in pint tins. Another scene—Mounting the large window in the centre room after the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon.

Names of Canadian and American prisoners confined in the common jail of Assiniboia by Riel and his associates on the 10th December, 1869:

Duncan N. Campbell, Chatham.  
 William Spice, Fullerton.  
 G. D. McVicar, Chatham.  
 Joseph Coombs, London.  
 A. R. Chisholm, Alexandria (Glengarry).  
 George Fortney, Texas, U. S.  
 Wm. Nemiuns, Elora.  
 W. Davis, Durham.  
 Mat Davis, Durham.  
 John Morney, Mosnock.  
 Peter McArthur, Toronto.  
 F. C. Mercer, Caledonia.  
 J. B. Harris, Stratford.  
 Geo. Nicholson, Ottawa.  
 Francis J. Manan, Guelph.  
 John Eccles, St. Thomas.

James Dawson, Toronto.  
 Jas. Develin, Durham.  
 Dr. Lynch, Montreal  
 Stewart Mulkins, Kingston.  
 Hugh Wrightman, Barrie.  
 Thomas Langman, Barrie.  
 A. Wright Paisley.  
 Jas. Stewart, Windsor.  
 Alex. Murray, Dickinson Landing.  
 Ja. Mulligan, Butts, Ireland.  
 John Hallett, Red River.  
 William Hallett, Red River.  
 Charles Stodger, England.  
 Donald Cameron, Ailsa Craig.  
 Dr. O'Donnell, Montreal.  
 Dr. Schultz, Amherstburg.  
 Thos. Lusted, Windsor.  
 Geo. Clyne, Boisbert, Red River.  
 Wm. Kitson, Howard.  
 W. J. Allen, Port Hope.  
 Thos. W. Scott, Toronto.  
 Chas. Palmer, London, Eng.  
 F. Hyman, London, Ont.  
 Geo Miller, Shefford, Que.  
 John Ivy, Texas, U. S.  
 J. W. Archibald, Truro.  
 J. Ferguson, Smith's Falls.  
 Wm. Graham, Allanburg.  
 Henry Woodington, Brampton.  
 Jos. H. Stocks Stratford.  
 Jas H. Ashdown, Durham.  
 James Robb, an American, escaped.  
 Allen W. Graham, Alborough.  
 Robert Smith, Winchester, Eng.  
 C. Mair, Perth.  
 Geo. Bootie, New Brunswick.  
 Thos. Franklin, pensioner.

List of Snow's men of Point du Chien, captured by Riel after their arrival in town after the surrender of the Canadian Volunteers:

George Parker, Lanark.  
 Geo. Brandon, Belgrave.

Philip Otwell, Owen Sound.  
 Jas. Jeffrey, Middleton.  
 Andrew Hall, Dunn (Haldimand).  
 John Lattmore Arran (Bruce).  
 Robt. Holland, Tudor (Hastings).  
 John McLeod, Stornoway, Scotland.  
 R. P. Meade, Windsor (Ed. Norwester).  
 Chas. Garrett, Orillia.  
 Arthur Hamilton, Ottawa.  
 — Heath, Ottawa.

After the escape there is a break in the narrative, as there is nothing to show what occurred between escape and being retaken, but singularly enough, however, there has just appeared in an educational paper, "The School," an article on the Red River Rebellion by A. W. Graham, whose name we find in the list of prisoners. This hiatus is thus partially filled, and we find the names of several mentioned in the diary, among them that of J. Ashdown, who, Mr. Graham says, was his bedfellow and is now a millionaire in Winnipeg. He states that on Jan. 24th Dr. Schultz cut his robe into strips and let himself down from his window and thus escaped. Riel was very angry, as Dr. Schultz was his star prisoner. Hallett was handcuffed and several were to be shot. On Feb. 12th all were offered their liberty on taking the oath of allegiance, which several did, but fourteen refused and were placed in a room 8x12; fed with nothing but pemican and water. Meanwhile a force of fifty, chiefly those who had escaped, and 200 Indians, under Major Boulton and Dr. Schultz had come from the Portage to rescue the prisoners, but found that Riel had released them on parole on 15th February, on which the force disbanded, but most of them were again arrested. Riel now had full control the stores, the weapons, the money of the Hudson Bay Company; the Canadians either out on parole or prisoners. Major Boulton was also sentenced to death, but by the influence of D. A. Smith (afterwards Lord Strathcona), Rev. E. Young, Arch. McLean, he was spared. But no pleading availed for Scott. The writer (Mr. Graham) says he was in his company four weeks in prison. He was quiet, civil and gentlemanly; tall, straight, athletic, a fine specimen of young manhood, and about twenty-five years of age.

There is no reference in the diary of how long they were

A list of prisoners including those from the “Portage Gang” captured in February is given by Alexander Begg in his book *The Creation of Manitoba*: Begg says;

“Several of the Portage party refused at first to give up their arms; but ultimately they consented to do so, and were all taken to Fort Garry, where they were imprisoned in the same rooms which had only recently been vacated by the first lot of prisoners. It is said that the Portage party gave themselves up, on the understanding that Riel merely wished to speak to them and explain matters. If this is the case, they were not justly dealt by, for immediately upon their arrival at Fort Garry, they were put in prison, and Major Boulton, their leader, placed in irons. What a singular change in affairs this occasioned; — twenty-four prisoners liberated on the 15th, — forty-eight prisoners taken on the 17th.

The following are the names of those captured in the way we have described:

Major Boulton.  
John McLean.  
Robert McBain.  
Wilder Bartlett.  
James McBain.  
Dan Sissons.  
A. Murray.  
W. Farmer.  
Lawrence Smith.  
Charles McDonald.

R. Adams.  
J. Paquin.  
M. McLeod.  
Archibald McDonald.  
James Jock.  
Thomas Scott.  
James Sanderson.  
George Wylds.  
D. Taylor.  
A. Taylor.

John Switzer.  
H. Williams.  
Alexander McPherson.  
W. G. Bird.  
Alexander McLean.  
Joseph Paquin.  
William Paquin.  
George Sandison.  
J. Dillworth.  
William Dillworth.  
Thomas Baxter.  
John Taylor.

John McKay.  
G. Parker.

George Newcomb.  
H. Taylor.  
J. B. Morrison.  
W. Salter.  
Magnus Brown,  
N. Morrison.  
W. Sutherland.  
Robert Dennison.  
Joseph Smith.  
Charles Millan.  
Alexander Parker.  
Sergt. Powers.  
John Ivy.  
One name unknown.

According to the *New Nation* edition of February 25, 1870, by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 24 prisoners remained in the gaol. They were those who had refused to take an oath of allegiance to the Provisional Government of Assiniboia and refrain from taking up arms against the government. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, they finally agreed to the terms of the oath and all prisoners were freed.

A number of the captured men were with John Snow's road crew. Snow was a surveyor hired by William McDougall (Lt. Gov. Designate, to build a road from Lake of the Woods to Upper Fort Garry. Snow had built other colonization roads in the east. Snow hired 40 men and work began on 9 Nov. 1868. They had cleared 28 miles of track by 1 April 1869 when the project closed down for lack of funds; Snow went to Ottawa 16 March returned on 6 July with funds to resume operations, but he found that labourers were "extremely scarce in the settlement, caused by the unusual demand, for agricultural purposes" and because men had already been employed by the HBC.

In August 1869 Snow reported "considerable dissatisfaction" among some of his workers over their wages of \$20 a month. At the end of September the discontented men struck for higher pay. Snow refused to pay them for the time lost during the strike, and they dragged him to the Seine River threatening shoot or to drown him. The Métis crew members rescued him. He submitted to their demands but that evening "proceeded to Fort Garry and laid information against five of the leaders in this robbery." Of the four who were indicted for aggravated assault two were found guilty and fined £4 each; one of the two was Thomas Scott.

The immediate purpose of this project was to provide employment "to the distressed population" of the Red River Settlement and to "alleviate their sufferings" brought on by an almost complete crop failure. The long-range goal was to satisfy the demands of Canadian expansionists for better communication with the west. However, along with Métis he had hired a number of Canadians and American army deserters. The governor and committee of the HBC protested the work "being undertaken by the Canadian government as a matter of right, as though the territory through which it is to pass were Canadian." The road builders were also purchasing from Indians lands which the Métis

thought were theirs. Abbé Georges Dugas, for instance, had complained to Bishop Taché in August 1869 about “gangs of adventurers” who “spread disorder among our people and seemed to be busier picking out land than working on the road.” There was some truth to this charge. John Stoughton Dennis testified to the committee that Snow and Schultz had staked out and bought lands from the Indians at Oak Point (Sainte-Anne, Man.); Dennis had subsequently told Schultz that the Canadian government would not recognize such purchases. The presence of his road-building party and of the survey crews under John Stoughton Dennis<sup>3</sup> were, at the time and later, considered to be partly responsible for the Red River rebellion.

Combined lists:

1. Adams Robert. (One of Boulton’s men captured by Lepine on February 17 )
2. Allan, “Ensign” William John. (Snow’s road crew) (surrendered from Schultz’s store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869) Escaped January 9<sup>th</sup> and recaptured January 1<sup>0</sup><sup>th</sup>, released February 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. Anderson, James (One of Boulton’s men captured by Lepine on February 17)
4. Archibald, Lewis W. (surrendered from Schultz’s store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
5. Ashdown, James Henry (Was on the survey crew of Lt. Colonel John Stoughton Dennis.) (surrendered from Schultz’s house on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
6. Bartlett Wilder. (One of Boulton’s men captured by Lepine in February)
7. Baxter Thomas. (One of Boulton’s men captured by Lepine in February)
8. Bird, William George<sup>4</sup> Métis (One of Boulton’s men captured by Lepine on February 17)
9. Boulton, Major Charles Arkoll (A surveyor, in 1869, Boulton came west to Red River as part of the Canadian Survey party led by Lt. Colonel John Stoughton Dennis.)
10. Brandon (Berhar), George (Snow’s road crew) (surrendered from Schultz’s store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
11. Brown Magnus.<sup>5</sup> (One of Boulton’s men captured by Lepine on February 17)
12. Cameron, Donald or Daniel (surrendered from Schultz’s store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
13. Campbell, Duncan A. (surrendered from Schultz’s store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869) Released February 12.
14. Chisholm, Angus (surrendered from Schultz’s store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869) Released February 12.
15. Coombs, Joseph M. (surrendered from Schultz’s store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
16. Davis, Mathew (surrendered from Schultz’s store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
17. Davis, William J. (surrendered from Schultz’s store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
18. Dawson, James
19. Dennison Robert. (One of Boulton’s men captured by Lepine on February 17)
20. Develin, James

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<sup>3</sup> Dennis came to Red river in 1869, along with Milner Hart and Major A. C. Webb. On October 11, 1869, Webb's crew was stopped by a Métis party led by Louis Riel.

<sup>4</sup> William Bird born 1838 at St. Paul, the Métis son of George Bird and Mary Ann Thomas (both Métis). He married Mary Jane Sutherland, the daughter of James Sutherland and Maria Bird.

<sup>5</sup> Magnus Brown of Headingley was married to Letitia Cook (Métis, born 1852.)

21. Dillworth John (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
22. Dillworth William. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
23. Eccles, John (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
24. Farmer W. A. (surveyor) (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
25. Ferguson, John (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
26. Fortney, George Francis (Snow's road crew) (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
27. Franklin, Thomas (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869) Released February 12.
28. Gaddy, William H.<sup>6</sup> (Métis)
29. Garrett, Charles (Snow's road crew) (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869) Released February 12.
30. Gissons, Daniel
31. Graham, Allan Wilson (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
32. Graham, William (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
33. Grant, John Francis. (*New Nation* reports John Grant, August Nolin, Joseph Hamelin and Angus McKay arrested on March 10 for plotting to overthrow the government)
34. Hall, James Andrew (Snow's road crew)
35. Hallett, John.<sup>7</sup> (Métis, son of William) (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
36. Hallett, William.<sup>8</sup> (Métis) (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
37. Hames, J.B. Arthur (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
38. Hamilton, Arthur (Snow's road crew) (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
39. Hamlin, Joseph (Métis arrested March 10) (*New Nation* reports John Grant, August Nolin, Joseph Hamelin and Angus McKay arrested on March 10 for plotting to overthrow the government)
40. Harris, James (Oak Point road crew)
41. Heath, Charles (Snow's road crew)
42. Holland, Robert (Snow's road crew)
43. Hyman, Walter F. (spy for Schultz and McDougall) (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)

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<sup>6</sup> William Gaddy was born in 1815, the son of James Gaddy and Mary, a Muddy River Peigan. He was a Scottish Half-Breed farmer from Portage la Prairie. He married Mary Marguerite Garrioch, the daughter of William Garrioch and Nancy Cook, in 1835. Gaddy was a sub-leader of the "49<sup>th</sup> Rangers," the Métis guards and scouts of the International Boundary Commission (1872-1873).

<sup>7</sup> John Henry Hallett was born in 1831, the Métis son of William Hallett and Marie Pruden. John married Martha Ann Stodgell, the daughter of Charles Stodgell and Margaret Bourke in 1870 at St. James. Charles Stodgell was also one of Riel's prisoners.

<sup>8</sup> William Peter Hallett was born about 1811 at Fort Vermilion, Alberta, the son of Henry Hallett and Catherine Tenanse (the second of Henry Hallett's four mixed-blood wives). William was Henry's eighth child. He was an opponent of Riel during the 1869-1870 Red River Resistance and a leader of the "49<sup>th</sup> Rangers," the Métis guards and scouts of the International Boundary Commission (1872-1873).

44. Ivy John (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)  
Jeffrey, James (Snow's road crew)
45. Jock, James. b. 1835 (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
46. Kent, James C. (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
47. Kittson, William (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
48. Klyne, George (Métis), Prisoner December 1869, escaped January 9<sup>th</sup>.
49. Langman, Thomas (surrendered from Schultz's house) Released February 12.
50. Larose, Francois (Métis) rented a house to McDougall at Pembina
51. Lock, James (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
52. Latimore, John (Snow's road crew)
53. Lusted, Thomas (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869) Escaped by  
December 17.
54. Lynch, Dr. James Spencer (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
55. MacArthur, Alex (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
56. MacArthur, Peter. Oak Point road crew.(surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec.  
7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
57. Mair, Charles (Paymaster for Snow's road crew) (surrendered from Schultz's  
store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
58. Mair, Mrs. Elizabeth Eliza (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
59. Manan, Francis J.
60. McBain James. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
61. McBain, Robert. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
62. McDonald Archibald. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
63. McDonald Charles. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
64. McKay John. (Headingley) (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on  
February 17)
65. McKay, Angus (Métis arrested March 10) (*New Nation* reports John Grant, August  
Nolin, Joseph Hamelin and Angus McKay arrested on March 10 for plotting to  
overthrow the government)
66. McLean Alexander. (son of John McLean) (One of Boulton's men captured by  
Lepine on February 17)
67. McLean, John
68. McLeod, John (Snow's road crew)
69. McLeod, M. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
70. McMillan Charles. (Métis) (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine) on  
February 17)
71. McPherson Alexander. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine o February 17)
72. McVicar, George Duncan (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)  
Escaped January 6-9.
73. Meade, Rawlin Price (Snow's road crew) (surrendered from Schultz's store on  
Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
74. Mercer, F.C. prisoner sometime after the events at Schultz's store, gave oath and  
released January 5, 1870.
75. Millar, "Lieutenant" Charles George (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec.  
7<sup>th</sup>, 1869), escaped January 9<sup>th</sup> recaptured on January 10<sup>th</sup>, released February 15<sup>th</sup>.
76. Morney, John

77. Morrison, John Black (Métis, retired HBC)<sup>9</sup> (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
78. Morrison Norman (Métis son of John Black Morrison) (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
79. Mugridge, Francis T.C. Oak Point road crew. (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
80. Mulkins, Stewart, arrived at RR September 3, 1869, a military school cadet, he became a chainman on Hart's survey crew.
81. Mulligan, James (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
82. Murray Alexander "Alex" (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
83. Newcombe George. Another military school cadet who came to RR on October 4, 1869 and was a chainman on 'Captain' Webb's survey crew. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
84. Nichol(son), George (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
85. Nolin, Augustin (Métis arrested March 10) (*New Nation* reports John Grant, August Nolin, Joseph Hamelin and Angus McKay arrested on March 10 for plotting to overthrow the government)
86. Nummins, William (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)

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<sup>9</sup> "It was when I went out one mid-winter morning in the season of 1869-70 to feed the stock on our farm at Headingly," said Mr. Morrison "that I found five men hiding in the stable. They looked gaunt and hungry as they came out between the cattle. One of them said 'Where can we get something to eat?' I said, "Go right up to the house."

It turned out they were surveyors of the party which, attempting to lay out the Red River Settlement in advance of making any arrangements with the people of the settlement, had been stopped in the fall of 1869 by Louis Riel and later imprisoned in Ft. Garry. The five men in the Morrison stable had escaped. One of them - the man who had asked for something to eat and had exclaimed with joy at finding that, after their night of flight, they had reached an English speaking settlement - was Thomas Scott.

"They stayed at our place all day," Mr. Morrison said, "and when night came, I drove them to Portage, as Portage la Prairie was then called. I took my fine team of ponies, from native horses crossed with Hon. Jas. McKay's blood stallion. I knew every foot of the country.

"At Portage la Prairie these five men .... going to the church and reported about the surveyors having been held prisoners in Fort Gary, in an old warehouse, ever since November without even a change of underclothing. A good many attended the meeting; and after it was over, George Parker and Thomas Scott, two of the five men I had driven to Portage la Prairie in the cutter, started out and gathered up every person they could get, to come down to Ft. Gary and demand the release of the prisoners."

The result of Scott's and Parker's efforts was the historic "Portage Party" of 100 men who, coming from Portage La Prairie by Headingly, marched on down by the way of the "main road" (now Portage Avenue and Main Street) and passing thus within a quarter of a mile of Riel's stronghold, Fort Gary, continued on to Kildonan, where they billeted themselves in the Old Kirk to await the arrival of reinforcements from the English - speaking "lower settlements" down St. Andrews way.

Mr. Morrison related with zest as though it had been yesterday the adventures of the Portage party. He told of the "councils of war" in the Old Kildonan Kirk; of the arrival of a pensioner from the pensioners' settlement down by the way of Fort Gary with the news that several of the pensioners had run the fort's field pieces in the bushes and spiked them! and of the choosing of two emissaries to take a letter to Riel.

"A man by the name of Norquay," said Mr. Morrison, "A cousin of old John Norquay, and another man McLeod, a hot-headed Scotchman from beyond the Portage, said they would go up with the letter. I was there with a horse and cutter, so I was chosen to drive Norquay and McLeod down to Fort Gary." *Free Press Evening Bulletin*, Winnipeg, Saturday, April 2, 1927. p.18

87. O'Donnell, Dr. John Harrison<sup>10</sup> (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
88. O'Donnell, Mrs. Hannah (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
89. Otwell, Phillip (Snow's road crew)
90. Palmer, Charles E. (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
91. Paquin *dit* Pocha Johnny (Métis) (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on February 17)
92. Paquin *dit* Pocha Joseph. (Métis) (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on Feb. 17)
93. Paquin *dit* Pocha William "Billy" (Métis) (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on Feb. 17)
94. Parker Alexander (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on Feb. 17)
95. Parker, George. (Snow's road crew) (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on Feb. 17)
96. Powers Sergt. Charles (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on Feb 17)
97. Robb, James. Oak Point road crew.
98. Salter William. Métis from Kildonan born 1840. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on Feb 17)
99. Sanderson (Sandison), James Francis.<sup>11</sup> (Métis) (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on Feb. 17).
100. Sanderson (Sandison) George William "Bill".<sup>12</sup> (Métis) (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on Feb. 17)
101. Schultz, 'Dr.' John Christian<sup>13</sup> (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
102. Schultz, Ms. Agnes Campbell (Farquharson) (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
103. Scott. Thomas W. (Snow's road crew, later executed) (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869 ) (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine on Feb. 17)
104. Sissons, Dan. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine)
105. Smith Lawrence. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine)
106. Smith, Joseph. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine)

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<sup>10</sup> O'Donnell came to Manitoba on November 3, 1869 at Schultz's invitation to join his medical practice. While helping defend Schultz's property, O'Donnell was taken prisoner. John Harrison O'Donnell, a member of Manitoba's Legislative Council, signed a warrant for the arrest of Riel and Ambroise-Dydime Lepine for the "murder" of Thomas Scott in March 1870.

<sup>11</sup> Born in 1848 at Athabaska Landing, brother of Bill (below) to an Anglophone buffalo hunting family .in 1870 he was part of the Portage party captured and imprisoned in Upper Fort Garry. He married Maria McKay.

<sup>12</sup> Born in Athabasca Landing in 1846, he grew up in Portage la Prairie. In 1870 he was part of the Portage party captured and imprisoned in Upper Fort Garry. According to his autobiography, the 'Memories' of George William Sanderson," edited by Irene Spry, *Canadian Ethnic Studies* 17 (1985): 115-34, Thomas Scott was a real nuisance to both his captors and his fellow prisoners.

<sup>13</sup> Dr Schultz had arrived there eight years previously. With his half-brother, Henry McKenney,, he had built the Royal Hotel at what was to become Portage and Main. He operated as a free trader in furs in opposition to the HBC throughout the early 1860s. He opened a drug store on Main Street and practiced medicine (although it is doubtful that he acquired a doctorate, as he claimed). In 1864 Schultz became a partner in the *Nor'Wester*, Red River's earliest newspaper, using it as an anti-HBC organ.

107. Smith, Robert B. (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
108. Spice, William (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
109. Stewart, James (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
110. Stokes, Joseph H. Oak Point road crew. (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
111. Stodgell, Charles.<sup>14</sup>
112. Sutherland W. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine)
113. Switzer John. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine)
114. Taylor Alexander "Sandy".<sup>15</sup> Métis, son of James Taylor and Mary Inkster. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine)
115. Taylor David.<sup>16</sup> Métis son of James Taylor and Mary Inkster. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine)
116. Taylor, John.<sup>17</sup> Métis son of James Taylor and Mary Inkster. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine)
117. Taylor. Herbert<sup>18</sup>. Métis son of James Taylor and Mary Inkster. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine)
118. Williams, H. (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine)
119. Woodington, Henry (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
120. Wright, Archibald Francis (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
121. Wrightman, Hugh (surrendered from Schultz's store on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1869)
122. Wylds, George (One of Boulton's men captured by Lepine)

On the second day of the first session of the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia, Riel announced the release of half of the prisoners. On April 15 the *New Nation* announced that all prisoners had been released.



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<sup>14</sup> Charles Stodgell was born in England in 1824. He married Margaret Bourke (Métis) born in Minnesota in 1821.

<sup>15</sup> Born 1843, married Mary McDonald, they lived at Poplar Point.

<sup>16</sup> Born in 1844, married Elizabeth Ann Spence, they lived at Headingley.

<sup>17</sup> Born 1834, married Flora Campbell, then Jane Brown, they lived at Headingley.

<sup>18</sup> Born 1850 at St. Paul, married Mary Ann McDonald, they lived at St. Andrew's then Headingley.