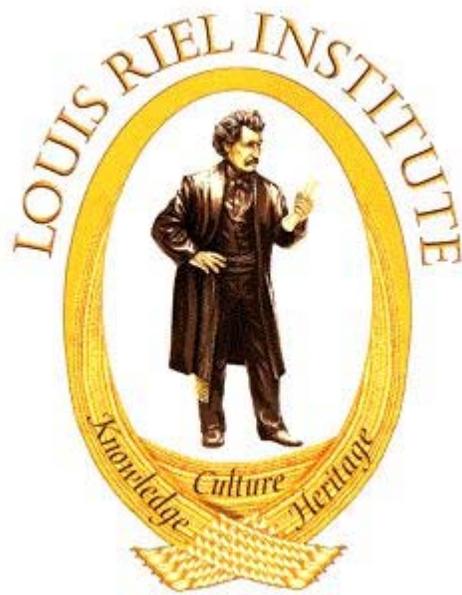


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba Métis Members



By Lawrence J. Barkwell
Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

Métis Members

Beauchemin, André
Bird, Frederick Adolphus
Bird, John James
Black, Alexander Kamloop
Bostrom, Harvey
Bourke, Andrew
Bourke, Edwin
Breland, Patrice
Bunn, Thomas
Chief, Kevin
Cunningham, James
Delorme, Pierre
Dewar, Gregory
Dumas, Joseph Pierre
Gaudry, Neil
Goulet, Maxime
Guay, Joseph Phillippe
Gunn, John
Hamelin, Joseph
Jerome, Martin
Kittson, Alexander
Klyne, George
Lagimodiere, William
Lépine , Maxime
McKay, Angus
Murray, Alexander
Nolin, Joseph Octave
Norquay, John
Norquay, Thomas
Rocan, Denis
Schmidt, Louis
Spence, David
Taylor, John
Teillet, Roger

André Beauchemin, MLA. (1824-1902)

A Métis politician, Andre served as the St. Vital delegate on Riel's Red River Council of November 1869. Later he was a delegate to the Convention of Forty and a councillor in the provisional government. He was elected to the first Manitoba legislature in 1870 by acclamation to represent the riding of St. Vital. André was born on November 6, 1824 at Red River, the son of André Millet *dit* Beauchemin and Madeleine Ducharme. He married Geneviève Delorme, the daughter of Joseph Esnault *dit* Delorme and Brigitte Villebrun.



Frederick Adolphus Bird, MLA (1823-1884)

A Scottish Half-Breed, Bird was elected to Manitoba's first legislature in 1870 to represent Portage la Prairie. Frederick was born on March 18, 1823, the son of George Bird and Mary Ann Thomas.¹

Frederick Bird was a Métis storekeeper in Portage la Prairie. He was married to Ann Garrioch (b. 1826), the daughter of William Garrioch and Nancy Cook, on December 21, 1843. They had eight children only five of whom lived past childhood. Frederick was part of the Portage group, which opposed Louis Riel. He was imprisoned by Riel at one point. Bird died at Portage la Prairie on 30 November 1884, at the age of 61 years. Frederick Bird is the great-great-great-grandfather of present day Manitoba M.L.A. Tom Nevakshonoff, elected from the Interlake riding



¹ George Bird (b. 1797) was the son of James Curtis Bird and Mary (Cree). Mary Ann Thomas was the daughter of Thomas Thomas and Sarah (Cree).

John James Bird, MLA (1845-1933)

John James Bird was born at St. Andrews, the Métis son of Henry Bird (1805-1893)² and Harriet Calder (1815-1889).³ On June 8, 1871, John James married the widow Margaret Johnson (nee Peebles) the Métis daughter of Elizabeth Morrison and James Peebles (1811-1882), a retired HBC voyageur. John and Margaret had the following children: Margaret, Mary, Charles, Walter, Fred and John.

Their son, Frederick V. Bird (1885-1977) was a well known physician and Mayor of Boissevain. John was elected as a Liberal M.L.A. in Kildonan in 1892 and defeated in the election of 1896. He also served as Reeve of the RM of St. Andrews. He died at St. Andrews, Manitoba on 2 January 1933.

Scrip affidavit for Bird, John J.; born: 1845; father: Henry Bird; mother: Harriet Bird.

Scrip affidavit for Bird, Margaret; wife of John J. Bird; widow of Johnson; born: 1845; father: James Peebles (Métis); mother: Elizabeth Peebles (Métis); claim no: 23; date of issue: May 1, 1876.

Scrip affidavit for Bird, Harriet; wife of Henry Bird; born: 1815; father: John Calder (Englishman); mother: Sarah Humphrey (Métis); claim no: 2194; scrip No: 11063; date of issue: October 2, 1876; amount: \$160.



John James Bird, M.L.A.

² Henry Bird was born in 1805 at Edmonton, the son of a Cree woman named Mary Oo-Menahomisk and HBC Chief Factor James Curtis Bird (1773-1856).

³ On October 28, 1824 Henry married Harriet Calder the Métis daughter of Sarah Humphyville and John Calder (1785-1850), an HBC surgeon from the Orkneys

Alexander Kamloop Black, MLA. (1832-1913)

Alexander Black was born in 1832 at Île-à-la-Crosse, NWT; the son of fur trader Alexander Black and his Native wife, Angelique Cameron. Samuel Black was a partner of Peter Skeene Ogden at Île-à-la-Crosse. Like Peter Ogden, Samuel Black refused to solemnize his marriage to Angelique Cameron, thereby enabling his white relatives to challenge the inheritances of their Métis kin.

Alexander Jr. married Margaret Miller (also Metis) on 15 December 1859 at St. Paul, Manitoba. Margaret Miller was born on 13 October 1842 at Red River (d. after 1901) she was the daughter of Robert George Miller and Elizabeth Setter⁴.

Alexander was elected to represent St. Paul's in the by-election of 1876 upon the death of Dr. Curtis Bird. Alexander died on December 14, 1913 at San Francisco.

Harvey Bostrom, MLA (b. 1946)

By Lawrence Barkwell and Shane Bostrom.

Harvey Bostrom, a Métis from Manigotogan, the son of Joseph "Joe" R. Bostrom (1900-1991) and Norma Eleanor Meade (1917-1994). His father was born in Sweden and worked in Manitoba as a trader and fur trapper until purchasing and running the store in Manigotogan. Harvey's Métis grandparents are William Richard Meade and Mary "Minnie" E. Perry, the daughter of Mary Fox⁵ and Frank Perry.

Harvey is a past president of the Northern Association of Community Councils, and was a New Democratic member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba from 1973 to 1981. He is an Economics graduate of the University of Manitoba, and worked as a teacher and economist. Bostrom is currently Deputy Minister of Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

⁴ Born at Fort Ellice January 1, 1822, the daughter of Andrew Setter and Margaret Peggy Spence.



⁵ Mary Fox was the daughter of Charles Fox and Therese Stevens. Charles Fox was born around 1820 somewhere in the Northwest Territories; however nobody seems to know his exact origins. It seems most likely that he was either an Indian or a half-breed; the name Fox perhaps suggests the former. The first and last place we find recorded evidence of him was in the St Peters Indian Settlement. Around 1841 Charles married Theresa (Thirza) Stevens, the daughter of an Indian woman named Mary Meenish and Richard Stevens (1796-1872), an Englishman. In the summer of 1861 Charles Fox erected a water-powered mill in St. Peter's parish (Indian Settlement). The *Nor'Wester* commented that "It is to be placed on a stream or rivulet which runs all winter—a very important advantage and will have a circular saw at Tachéd for planks, boards, shingles etc." Charles Fox died in 1868, After her husband died Widow Thirza and her children moved to River Lot 107, which is located just north of her father's home (where the Lockport Bridge and Stevens Avenue are located today). In 1899, granddaughter Mary Elizabeth "Minnie" Perry marrie in Winnipeg to William Richard Meade (1876-1962). They took up residence in St Paul Parish (Middlechurch). In the census of 1901 Widow Thirza FOX (now 77 years old) was recorded living with them there. (Source: <http://www.redriverancestry.ca/FOX-CHARLES-1820.php>.)

Bostrom was appointed to the cabinet of Edward Schreyer on December 23, 1974, being named as Minister of Cooperative Development with responsibility for Lands and Renewable Resources. He was named Minister of Renewable Resources and Transportation Services on October 15, 1975, and held this position until the Schreyer government was defeated in the election of 1977. Bostrom himself was re-elected in the 1977 election, with a reduced majority. In 1979, he supported Howard Pawley's successful bid to succeed Schreyer as party leader. He did not seek re-election in the 1981 election.

Harvey entered the civil service after leaving politics, and became the executive director of Manitoba's Native Affairs Secretariat (later renamed the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat) in 1990. He was appointed acting deputy minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs by NDP Premier Doer in 2001, and was given full deputy minister status shortly thereafter.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

I,

Mary Perry (Fox)

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.

County of *St. Charles*
Parish of *St. John*

of the Parish of *St. Andrew* in
the County of *Singer* in the
Province of Manitoba, *in presence of* *Mary Perry* *make*
oath and say as follows :

1. I claim to be entitled to participate in the allotment and distribution of the 1,400,000 acres of land set apart for Half-breed children, pursuant to the Statutes in that behalf.

2. I was born on or about the *10th* day of *January* A.D. 18 *57* at the Parish of *St. Andrew* in said Province; and am now of the full age of *25* years

3. *Charles Fox a half-breed* was my father
Theresa (Stevens) is my mother;
my said *mother* was the half-breed head of a family resident in the Parish of *St. Andrew* in the said Province, on the fifteenth day of July, A.D. 1870.

4. I was not the head of any family at the last named date and I have not made any claim other than the above in this or any other Parish, nor have I claimed or received as an Indian any annuity moneys from the Government of said Dominion.

Mary Perry

Sworn before me at the Parish and County aforesaid on the *16th* day of *September* A.D. 1875, having been first read and explained in the *English* language to the said deponent, who seemed perfectly to understand the same, and *signed* in my presence.

J. M. Macdonald

Commissioner

Andrew Bourke, MLA (b. 1832)

Andrew was born on August 10, 1832, in St. James parish, the son of John Palmer Bourke and Nancy Campbell. Andrew was elected MLA for Baie St. Paul Parish, Manitoba on December 18, 1878. He followed his brother Edwin into the Legislature. Edwin had been the St. James MLA. Andrew was an independent fur trader and noted horse lover. Andrew married Madeleine Lallemond *dite* Welsh, born January 21, 1837, the daughter of François Xavier Welsh and Charlotte Sauve in 1861 at St. Boniface. They

had eight children, John Palmer (b. 1862), Edwin (b. 1863), James Alexander (b. 1865), Henry (b. 1867), Sarah (b. 1868), Andrew Henry (b. 1870), Helene (b. 1873) and Etienne (b. 1873). He then married Angelique Chalifoux circa 1880. They had a son, Andre born in 1881 at Flat Lake. Andrew passed away on 8 September 8, 1899 in St EusTaché.



Scrip affidavit for Bourke, Madeleine (nee Walsh or Welsh); wife of Andrew Bourke, concerning the claims of her children: John Bourke; born: 5 January 1851; Edwin Bourke; born: 27 August 1863; James Alexander Bourke; born: 15 August 1865; Sarah Bourke; born: 18 July 1868.

Scrip affidavit for Bourke, Madeleine; Wife of Andrew Bourke; born: January 21, 1837; father: Xavier Welsh; mother: Charlotte Sauve (Métis); claim no: 1678; date of issue: September 20, 1870.

Burke, André; address: Baie St. Paul; claim no. 1965; born: 1881 at Flat Lake; father: André Burke (Métis); mother: Angélique Chalifoux (Métis); married: 1898 at St. François Xavier to Marie Lépine .

Edwin Colin Bourke, MLA (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 Bourke⁶ (1863-1943), Walter Palmer Bourke (1865-1866), Edmond Bourke (1866-1958), Maria Ann Bourke (1868-1973), Florence Bourke (1870-1955), Catherine



⁶ William served as a private in Middleton's 90th Battalion during the 1885 Northwest Resistance.

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 and on the school board. His brother Andrew was elected MLA for Baie St. Paul Parish on July 23, 1877.

Patrice Breland, MLA (1837-1908)

Patrice served as a Justice of the Peace in the North West Territories, as a member of the Manitoba Legislature from 1880 to 1882, and as Reeve of the RM of St. François Xavier from 1891 to 1892, and from 1895 to 1900.



James McKay (l) and Patrice Breland
PAM, H. Letourneau Collection. # 17, Negative 14318.

Patrice was born at St. François Xavier on March 17, 1837, the son of Pascal Breland and Maria Grant. He was married to Helen Dease, the daughter of John Dease. In 1879 Patrice was elected to the Manitoba legislature by acclamation for the riding of St. François-Xavier. He was a fur trader, traveling between Manitoba and the Cypress Hills, as well as other points in the North West Territories He usually worked as a trader with

his father and was a Riel supporter in 1869-70. In 1878, Patrice and other Métis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Métis reserve of land.⁷ This was one of the Métis families arrested at Fort Belknap for hunting in Montana. November 24, 1878:

November 24: Cypress Mountains, Patrice Breland writes: The news here, although not very good, because the Buffalos (bison) are very scarce in the neighbourhood, they are plentiful on the other side of the line along the Milk River, but there is great inconvenience to go and hunt in that direction because the Americans defend it, they have made prisoners. Antoine Brillant the elder, Peter Lapierre, Alexander Brilliant, Pierre Labruler, Ambroise Chartrant, Charles Demontigny and Joseph Azure, they have all been made prisoners with their families. They were arrested at Fort Belknap, they have been released after 7 or 8 days after, without being fined provided they don't return and tell folks that other prisoners will be put in gaol for two years and their horses and carts taken. I have learned that the Teton (Sioux) go hunting on the other side of the line numbering 300 men. The Teton are not numerous here. They are about 50 lodges and the Sante about 30 lodges, and the remainder of the Teton with Sitting Bull are at the Mud House on White River (Utah), I have learned that they are about 1,000 lodges. I think I will go very soon to trade with these people...



Thomas Bunn, MLA (1830-1875)

Thomas Bunn was born at the Red River Settlement on 16 May 1830, the first son of John Bunn and Catherine Thomas, both Metis. *Dr John Bunn* (1803-1861), Tom's father, was a surgeon with the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) at Moose Factory. He then left

⁷ Requesting a re-opening of the buffalo hunt between November 14th and February 15th each year and the granting of Metis "reserve" land (A strip of land 150 miles long along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border. This strip was to be fifty miles from south to north.

HBC service and moved to Red River in 1824. John Bunn served as a member of the Council of Assiniboia. Thomas Bunn's grandfather, Thomas Thomas, was also a surgeon and rose to the position of HBC Governor in 1813.

Thomas was a farmer throughout his life in the St. Andrews Parish. He was raised in the parish of St. Paul (Middlechurch) and educated at the Red River Academy. He married Isabella Clouston, the daughter of Nancy Sutherland and John Clouston, in 1854. Isabella died in 1857 giving birth to their daughter Isabella. Their son, John, was born in 1855. Thomas then married Rachel Harriot, the daughter of John Harriott and Nancy Rowand in 1859. They subsequently had eight children. In 1864 Bunn house was completed on river lot 97 on the east side of the Red river opposite St. Clement's Church. His brother John Robert Bunn (b. 1832) was married to Jemima Clouston. A second brother, William Thomas, was born in 1833 and died at age thirteen (1847).

In 1868, he was appointed to the Council of Assiniboia having previously served as clerk of the Council and the Quarterly Court of Assiniboia from 1865-1869. Bunn was made a delegate to the Council from St. Clements in 1869. He was a supporter of Riel and chaired the famous open-air meetings of January 1870 when Donald A. Smith spoke to the Red River population. Bunn then served on the committee arranging the elections to the Convention of Forty and he himself became one of the delegates to the Convention representing St. Clements. He served as Secretary of State in the Provisional Government. In Manitoba's first election of December 1870, Bunn was elected as MPP from St. Clements. Bunn was called to the bar in 1871 and was clerk for the first General Quarterly Court in May of 1871.

Thomas Bunn died on 11 April 1875.



Kevin Chief, MLA

Kevin Chief, originally from Duck Bay, Manitoba, grew up surrounded by music and dancing thanks to the influence of his late father, Norman Chief. He dances with the Norman Chief Memorial Dancers. The Norman Chief Memorial Dancers were founded in 2004 by Sonny and Terri Delaronde in memory of the late Norman Chief, a Métis musician, singer, and entertainer.



Kevin, a long-time resident of Winnipeg's North End and was elected Member of the Legislative Assembly for Point Douglas on October 4, 2011. He was appointed Minister of Children and Youth Opportunities by Premier Greg Selinger on January 13, 2012.

Kevin attended Strathcona Elementary School, Isaac Newton Junior High and Tec Voc High School. He attended university on a basketball scholarship and graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a Bachelor Degree with a major in Justice and Law Enforcement and a minor in Physical Activity and Sport Study. He is currently working on his Masters of Education.



Kevin is a community leader, involved with numerous boards and committees from local to national levels. He is also a sought-after speaker on the topic of the importance of education and leadership development for youth. He received the Manitoba Premier's Volunteer Service Award in 2009 and was awarded the Future Leaders of Manitoba Award for Community Service in 2010. He is also a recipient of the Manitoba Hydro Spirit of the Earth Award.

- Executive Director of The Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport Achievement Centre
- Former Aboriginal consultant with River East Transcona School Division
- Elected to the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg as a Director in 2005
- Board Director of Neeginan Development Corporation
- Member of the Proposal Selection Committee with Centre for Aboriginal
- Human Resource Development (CAHRD)
- Volunteer/Advisor with Manitoba Human Rights Commission
- Winner of a 1994 Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award

Chief was instrumental in creating the partnership between the Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport Achievement Centre and The Manitoba Moose Yearling Foundation to implement a hockey initiative for students who may not have received the opportunity otherwise. He serves on the Board of directors of the Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation.

Kevin has held many professional positions in the areas of youth development and education, including Coordinator of the Innovative Learning Centre at the University of

Winnipeg, Director of the Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport Achievement Centre and Community Networker with the River East Transcona School Division. He has served as a board and committee member for many local and national organizations.

An accomplished athlete, Kevin is a two-time First Team Great Canadian Athletic Conference All Star and a three-time member of the All Manitoba Team for the Manitoba High School Athletic Association. An active member of a square dance troupe, Kevin regularly performs throughout Manitoba. Kevin and his wife Melanie were married in July 2009. They are raising their son Hayden, born in 2010, in the Point Douglas area.

James Cunningham, MLA (1821-1915)

A Hudson's Bay Scottish Half-Breed born at Isle-a-la-Crosse, the son of Patrick Cunningham, the postmaster at Churchill Factory and Nancy Bruce. James married Sarah Ross the daughter of Alexander Ross and his wife Sally, the "Princess of the Okanogan." They moved to Kildonan, then to Headingley and Poplar Point. After Sarah's death he remarried to Letitia Pritchard (b. 1826), the daughter of John Pritchard and Catherine McGillivray. She was the widow of Hugh Matheson. James and Sarah had 13 children. James and Letitia had two children. Patrick Cunningham died in 1826 and two years later the family moved to Red River. For a number of years James lived at Headingley and also at Poplar Point. James was elected to the first Manitoba legislature in December 1870 to represent the riding of Headingley. He died on April 27, 1915 at Somerset.



The following interview June 12, 1909 in the North Battleford Newspaper:

OLD DAYS IN THE WEST

Jas. Cunningham, who was visiting his son in South Battleford, granted our reporter an interview during this week. Although ninety years of age and the only surviving member of a family of seven he is still in possession of all his faculties and chatted freely about his experiences traveling from ocean to ocean.

Mr. Cunningham's father was in the employ of the Hudson Bay Co., and as his work was more particularly connected with establishing new posts, he seldom remained in one place for more than two years. It was while superintending the rebuilding of

Fort Severn; which had been destroyed by fire, that his father met his death by drowning. His widow, with her young family, then moved to Winnipeg. Mr. Cunningham was born at Ile La Crosse and with three other members of his family was baptized at York Factory by the Rev. David Jones, the first Church of England missionary and the founder of St. John's Parish. He was educated at St. John's College and afterwards tilled a farm in Red River. While in the north he saw the different fur bearing animals as they roamed their native haunts and also the place were the waxies (a white goose) hatch in the north beyond the abode of man. On a quacking bog which has the resemblance of a mass of black jelly and upon which it would be impossible to step the waxies make their nest and hatch their young. During the season when the young are growing preparatory to flight it is impossible to obtain sleep for the noise of the incessant honking. He also spoke of seeing the polar bear carry their cubs on their back and going down to devour the whales left on the shore by the tide. In speaking of life in the far north he said that the diet in those days consisted mostly of fish, fowl and moose meat with bread for breakfast on Sunday morning.

During his early manhood he had hunted buffalo in the Pembina Mountains and had succeeded with others in killing enough for the supply of green meat as it was termed. While chatting of Winnipeg in the early days with the farms along the Red River he said that he visited there a short time ago and tried to find some spot on the Ross Estate dear to his younger days but he found the he was getting lost among the houses and streets and so returned home. He, like other pioneers, regrets that the doings of those early days had not been written down and thus provide a history of the opening up of the "Last West."

The following obituary appeared in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, April 27, 1915:

WAS MEMBER OF FIRST LEGISLATURE

James Cunningham, whose name probably stood at the head of the list of western Canadian old-timers, died yesterday at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Henrietta Clouston, Sommerset, Man. Mr. Cunningham's age is officially given as 95 years old, but there is a doubt on this point among his relatives, some of whom believe he had pass the 100 year mark. The body is to be brought to Winnipeg today and the funeral will be held at 4:10 from the Union depot to Kildonan cemetery.

Mr. Cunningham was born at Fort Churchill, Hudson's Bay, Isle a La Crosse, 1819, baptized at Ft. Churchill in 1822. When he was three years old the family removed to Severn, where his father Patrick Cunningham of the Hudson's Bay company's service, a north of Ireland man. Parish of Calrea, Sligo, Ireland died. October 15, 1831 Two years later, the survivors removed to the Red River, or Selkirk settlement and took up their residence in Kildonan for a number of years. After the great flood of 1852 they moved in 1853 to Headingly. For some ten or twelve years they resided there, then went to Poplar Point for a time. Some years later he was again at Headingly, and after that again at Poplar Point until a couple of years ago when he

came to make his home in Winnipeg at 253 Austin Street., where he resided until the death of his wife about three months ago.

Mr. Cunningham was a member of the first legislature of Manitoba, which held its first session in 1870. He was twice married, his first wife being Sarah, daughter of Alexander Ross, a gentleman prominent in connection with the early history of this country. His second wife was Mrs. Hugh Matheson, Letitia Pritchard. His children are Mrs. A. Clouston, of Somerset, Man.; Rev. Alexander H. Cunningham at one time Methodist missionary to the Indians at Island Lake, Lake Winnipeg district, Keewatin; James W. Cunningham, Birch Hill, Sask.; G. Cunningham, residing at Poplar Point, Man., Adam Cunningham at Battleford, Sask., and Mrs. Rev. T. Beveridge.

Pierre Delorme, MLA, MP (1832-1912)

Pierre was born October 1, 1832 in St. Boniface, the son of Amable Fafard Delorme and Josephite Bellisle. Amable was also known as Joseph or Louis Delorme. From 1852-56, he worked for the HBC at Swan River as a middleman. In September 1854, he married Adélaïde Millet *dite* Beauchemin and in 1857 they bought lot 21 at Pointe-Coupée (St. Adolphe) where they built a log-framed two-story house. They raised five sons and two daughters. Pierre farmed, traded and ran a boarding house for Pembina Trail travelers and later operated a cart brigade to northern Saskatchewan.

During the late 1860s, Louis Riel and the other Métis political leaders started meeting at Delorme's home to strategize on their response to the planned transfer of Rupert's Land to Canada. Delorme took an active part in the Provisional Government and in 1870 was elected to the Convention of Forty as the member from Pointe-Coupée. In the first provincial election of December 1870 he was elected as MLA for St. Norbert. He was elected as a federal MP in 1871, for Provencher riding, defeated in the next election (1874) and re-elected in December of 1878 by acclamation. As a Captain of the Métis he captured Major Boulton and others when they attempted to take Upper Fort Garry on behalf of the Canadian Party. In 1871 he was elected a Captain of the Métis from Pointe-Coupée to defend Manitoba against Fenian invasion from the United States.

He contested the 1870 election, running as a Conservative and won the seat of St. Norbert South, which he held until defeated in 1874. In 1871 he ran federally in the Provencher riding and became one of Manitoba's first members of the House of Commons. From 1873 to 1875 he served on the Council of the North-West Territories. He nominated Riel for the seat in 1872, but it was withdrawn so he could nominate George-Étienne Cartier, who had been defeated in his Montreal riding. Cartier was elected by acclamation. After Cartier's death in 1883, Delorme was again active in attempts to nominate Riel and have him elected for Provencher.

In 1878, Premier Norquay named Delorme Minister of Agriculture and President of the Executive Council. In the provincial election of that year, he was elected by



acclamation for the riding of St. Norbert. Upon retiring from politics, he returned to St. Adolphe as a farmer and businessman. He argued for Riel's amnesty and was deeply involved with the Métis lands issue.



Delorme house (built in 1850s) was moved from River Lot 21 at Pointe Coupée (St. Adolphe) to its present location at St. Norbert Provincial Heritage Park. The house has a post and sill construction known as Red River frame construction.

Reference

Shore, Fred. "Pierre Delorme." *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XIV (1911-1920). Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1998: 280-281.

Gregory Dewar, MLA (b. 1956)

Métis politician Greg Dewar was born in Selkirk, Manitoba. Greg was elected as the MLA for the Selkirk in 1990 and was re-elected in 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2007. He has served as the government whip and has been a member of the caucus executive, the House Strategy committee and the Legislative Assembly Management Committee. In November 2009 Premier Selinger appointed him the Legislative Assistant to the Minister of Finance. He is also Vice-Chair of the Public Accounts Committee.

- Vice chair of the Selkirk Restitution and Reconciliation Committee, which advocated the re-integration of young offenders into the community.
- Past treasurer of the Selkirk and District Environmental Organization, a group concerned with the environment and meaningful economic development.
- Former treasurer of the Selkirk local of the Manitoba Métis Federation, founding director of the Maurepas Village Housing Co-operative, which built eight housing units for needy families in the Selkirk area, and an organizer for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organizations in Selkirk.

Joseph Pierre Dumas, MLA (1875-1950)

Joseph was born at Neche, North Dakota, the son of Cyrille Dumas⁸ (b.1841 at St. Vital), and Charlotte Venne. His father was a Ste. Agathe farmer. In 1897, he settled in Fort Garry where he established a general construction company, which built houses, roads, and public buildings throughout Winnipeg and Fort Garry. On January, 26 1898, he married Mary Nisbett, the daughter of John Nesbitt and Jeanne Wildjoox, they had no children. He served in the Manitoba Legislature from 1915 to 1920. He moved to California in 1935 and lived near Los Angeles. He died at Saugus, California on January 14, 1950. He is commemorated by Dumas Ave. in Winnipeg.

In 1916, Dumas opposed the Liberal government's *Thornton Act* which created a single English-speaking, non-sectarian public school system in Manitoba. Dumas, the MLA for St. Boniface and P.A. Talbot, MLA for LaVérendrye resigned from the Liberal party to sit as independents. Dumas characterized the law which abolished French-language school rights as "the most unjust" ever to be inflicted on the province.



Neil Gaudry, MLA (1937-1999)

By Gabriel Dufault.

Neil was born in St. Laurent on September 19, 1937, the son of Véronique Chartrand and Ernest Gaudry. He attended all his schooling in his native community of St. Laurent graduating with grade XII. In October of 1962 at the St. Boniface Cathedral he married Leona Rainville and together they raised three children; Roger, Rene and Nicole.

He was mayor of Canadien-français pavilion of Folklorama in 1983, "Voyageurs official" of festival du Voyageur 1984-85, founding President of l'accueil Colombie- a senior citizen home in Saint Boniface for four years, long time member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a life member of the Société historique de Saint-Boniface and served as District Deputy and Chairman of the board of the Saint Boniface Museum.

⁸ Cyrille was the son of Michel Dumas Sr. and his second wife Henriette Landry. His half-brother Michel Dumas Jr. was one of the four Metis men who went to Montana in 1884 to get Louis Riel to return to the North West Territory and lead the Metis Resistance.

He was elected to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly for the riding of Saint Boniface on the 26th of April 1988, was re-elected on the 11th of September 1990 and then again on the 25th of April 1995. He served as interim Chief of the Provincial Liberals in 1998 as well as being the alternate member of the working committee for the Meech Lake Accord. He was the first MLA to deliver a speech entirely in French in the Manitoba Legislature, in 1988. He was the driving force of a bill formally recognizing Louis “David” Riel as founder of Manitoba on May 22nd 1992. The preamble of his bill was as follows:

The Métis and Canadiens-français have always considered Louis Riel as the father and founder of Manitoba especially in the darkest hours of 1885. This officially can not erase all the injustices and persecutions that we as Métis have endured but it serves to acknowledge the calm and worthy 1869-70 Red River Resistance is recognized, it also serves as an indication of our readiness to continue building a strong Manitoba and Canada on the solid foundation bequeathed to us by Louis Riel. It also indicated very clearly that the Métis Nation could be proud of its languages, of its history and traditions. Finally recognizes the unique and historical role that Louis Riel played in the creation of the Province of Manitoba and the Canadian Confederation.

Neil Gaudry endorsed very vigorously the various private members bills introduced in the House of Commons all aimed at reversing the guilty verdict of high treason rendered at Louis Riel’s trial, and also recognizing Louis Riel as the Father of Confederation.

Neil Gaudry died on February 18th 1999 while attending one of the events of the Festival du Voyageurs. He is buried in the St. Laurent cemetery. A bursary bearing his name has been established at College Universitaire de Saint Boniface for Métis students.

Maxime Goulet, MLA (b. 1855)

Maxime Goulet was born on January 28, 1855, the son of Alexis Goulet and Josephte Severight. He served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba from 1878 to 1886 and was the Minister of Agriculture under Premier John Norquay. He was educated at the St. Boniface College before spending five years in the service of the Hudson’s Bay company. He taught for twenty years and accompanied his brother Roger Goulet on the Métis Scrip Commission. Most notably, he left St. Boniface on March 30, 1889, with Ambroise Lépine, Michel Dumas and Jules Marion on the way to the Paris World’s Fair to take part in the Wild West Show. They took two Red River Carts, two trains of dogs and a buffalo gun. They built a log house at the Fair accompanied by Buffalo Bill Cody.

He was elected in the 1878 general election as a member of the French Party for the riding of St. Vital. He then ran in the riding of LaVerendrye as an independent conservative, winning in the 1879 and 1883 elections. He served as Minister of Agriculture from 7 January 1880 to 16 November 1881. He left office in 1886.



Maxime Goulet was a younger brother of the Métis martyr Elzear Goulet. Maxime married Elise Genthon, the daughter of Joseph Genthon and Josephite Marion on July 1, 1873 in St. Boniface. Their daughter May Goulet married Patrice Payette in 1902. Daughter Marie Rose Goulet was born on November 17, 1874 and died on December 31, 1874.

Maxime died on January 17, 1932. Goulet Street in central St. Boniface is named for Maxime Goulet.

Joseph Phillippe Guay, MP (1915-2001)

Métis politician Joseph Guay was born in Saint Vital, Manitoba on October 4, 1915; the son of Phillippe Guay and Alexandrine Dupuis. He was educated at Ste. Anne des Chenes and Winnipeg. He served in the Royal Canadian Army for approximately five years as an instructor and Acting Regulating Petty Officer. Joseph married Marguerite Bouvier of Mayronne, Saskatchewan on October 4, 1941. She was a graduate nurse (Gold Medallist) from Misericordia Hospital School of Nursing. Together they raised six children and an adopted nephew.

Joe was the owner of Guay's Shoes in St. Boniface and a representative of Alfred Lambert Inc. for 14 years. He became politically involved in 1956 when he was elected to represent Ward 3 in the city of St. Boniface. He was returned by acclamation two years later. He became chairman of the city property committee for four years and was elected Mayor of St. Boniface in 1960. He served as mayor from 1961 to 1968. Joe also served on the Metropolitan Planning Commission of Greater Winnipeg (1956-60), the Metropolitan Civil Defense Board, the Rivers and Streams Protection Authority, and was vice-chairman of the Winnipeg-St. Boniface Harbour Commission. He was also active on the boards of the John Howard and Elizabeth Fry Society and the St. Boniface Taché Hospital.

In 1968, he was elected as a Member of Parliament for St. Boniface. After re-election in 1972, he became Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport. He served as minister of national revenue before being named to the Senate in 1978. Guay

retired in 1990. (Portions reprinted from Bruce Sealey, General Editor, Famous Manitoba Metis, Winnipeg: Manitoba Métis Federation Press, 1974: 77-79, with permission of Pemmican Publications, successor to MMF Press.)

John Gunn, MLA (1826-1898)

John Gunn was born on August 8, 1826 at St. Andrew's, the Métis son of Donald Gunn and his wife, Margaret Swain. John was educated by his father. He was a farmer and later worked as a teacher at St. John's Day School from 1845 to 1847.

On February 2, 1855, he married Emma Garrioch (1825-1921) at St. John's. She was the fifth daughter of William Garrioch. They had at least nine children: Margaret Jane Gunn (b. 1855), William R. Gunn (b.1857), Donald Gunn (b.1859), John James Gunn (b. 1861), Emma Ann Gunn (b.1862), Mary Gunn (b.1864), Reverend Henry George Gunn (b. 1866), Gilbert Garrioch Gunn (b. 1868), and Margaret Gunn (b. 1877).



He was elected a School Trustee in 1871 and served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board from its organization in that year. He was elected to the Manitoba Legislature for the St. Andrews North constituency at the 1874 general election and was re-elected in 1878. He was defeated in each of the 1879 and 1883 elections. He died on January 8, 1898 at Little Britain on the Red River.

Scrip affidavit for Gunn, John; born: August 8, 1836; father: Donald Gunn (Scot); mother: Margaret Gunn (Métis); claim no: 105; date of issue: May 1, 1876

Scrip affidavit for Gunn, Emma, wife of John Gunn; born: July 20, 1824; father: Wm. Garrick [sic] (Scot); mother: Nancy Garrick (Métis); claim no: 106; date of issue: May 1, 1876

Scrip affidavit for Gunn, Margaret J.; born: November 24, 1855; father: John Gunn (Métis); mother: Emma Gunn (Métis)

Joseph Hamelin, MLA (1873-1947)

Hamelin was born on February 21, 1873 in St. Boniface, the son of Firmin Hamelin (b. 1848) and Clemence Breland. Hamelin's paternal grandfather, Salomon Hamelin, served in the Legislative council of Manitoba from 1871 to 1876. His maternal grandfather was legislator Pascal Breland who was an M.L.A. for St. François Xavier elected in 1870.

He was educated in St. Boniface and at the Juniorate of the Sacred Heart in Ottawa. He then returned to Manitoba and worked as a merchant, becoming manager of the Joseph Hamelin Co. general store in Ste. Rose du Lac in 1912. He served as Reeve of Ste. Rose du Lac from 1900 to 1914. In 1900 at Laurier, Manitoba, he married Parmélie Gamache. They had 10 children. Hamelin died in Niagara Falls, Ontario on August 29, 1947.



Hamelin was first elected to the Manitoba legislature in the 1914 provincial election, running for the Conservative Party in Ste. Rose. After the election, he served as a backbench supporter of Rodman P. Roblin's government.

Hamelin's time on the government benches was brief. The Roblin government was forced to resign amid scandal in early 1915, and was resoundingly defeated in the 1915 election. Hamelin was one of only five Conservatives to win re-election. He was again returned in the 1920 election, in which the Conservatives won eight seats out of fifty-five. He was again re-elected in 1922.

He identified himself as an independent candidate during this campaign, although most political observers considered him to be a Conservative in all but name. He appears to have rejoined the Conservative caucus during the parliament that followed. In the 1927 election, he was defeated. Hamelin attempted to return to the legislature in the 1936 election without success in the LaVérendrye constituency.

Martin Jérôme dit St. Matte. MLA (1849-1936)

Martin Jérôme was born, on November 23, 1849 at Pembina, the son of Martin Jérôme Jr. *dit* St. Matthe (b. 1800) and Angélique Letendre.⁹ He was half-brother to Louis Jérôme Jr. (son of Martin Sr. and Betsy Wilkie).

⁹ Martin (St. Mathe) Jérôme was born in 1801 in Saskatchewan River Valley. He was also known as Samart Gerome in 1821. He became a freeman and after 1821 moved to the Red River Settlement. In 1850 he was a Hunter in Pembina County, Minnesota Territory. He appears in the 1850 census in Pembina, Minnesota Territory. He was appointed judge of election in 1868 at Pembina, Dakota Territory. He died on 29 July 1879 in Leroy, Pembina County, Dakota Territory. He was buried on 31 July 1879 in St. Joseph Cemetery, Leroy, Dakota



Martin completed his school studies at Collège de Sainte-Boniface. He married Léocadie Carrière in 1871 at St. Norbert. Between 1875 and 1880 the family moved to Saint-Pierre-Jolys where Léocadie was born. Martin was first the mayor of Youville. He was the first Reeve of the Rural Municipality of DeSalaberry. In the 1888 general election he became the Liberal MLA from Carillon, 1888-96 and 1899-1903.

- Elected in the general election July 11, 1888
- Re-elected in the general election July 23, 1892 (Ind. Lib)
- Defeated in the general election January 15, 1896
- Re-elected in the general election December 7, 1899

Jérome's defeat of the Conservative candidate Thomas Bernier was a sign of Métis discontent with the Roman Catholic Church and the power structure in general at Red River. Raymond Huel notes:

During the campaign, Jérome denounced clerical intervention [by Taché] on behalf of Bernier and other French Canadian candidates. After the election, Jérome published a short pamphlet in which he denounced the political intrigues of the French Canadian elite class and the clergy to prevent him from being a candidate. Jérome claimed that in attacking him these elements were attacking the entire Métis nation. He blamed the clergy for problems encountered in the 1892 provincial election and for forcing individuals to vote against their conscience. He accused the clergy of allying with the adversaries of the Métis and for leading the conspiracy to

Territory. Martin (St. Mathe) Jerome and Angelique Letendre were married on 6 June 1825 in St. Boniface, Manitoba. Angelique Letendre was the daughter of Jean Baptiste Letendre dit Batoche and Josephte (Cree) she was born about 1808 in Northwest Territories. She died bet 1830-1831.

ensure the defeat of Métis candidates. Jérôme claimed to have been alone in combating the “quadruple alliance of clergy, the Senate, the press and the bar.”¹⁰

The Métis Liberal, Martin Jérôme, defeated Taché’s candidate in the Carillon constituency in 1892 and incurred and suffered the wrath of the Church. Jérôme alleged that after his victory he was not allowed to have a pew in the parish church. Jérôme went on to denounce French Canadian and clerical influences on the Métis community and contributed to an awakening of Métis national consciousness that would assume concrete form in the early twentieth century.¹¹

Jérôme was defeated by the conservative candidate in 1896, and was later re-elected to the Manitoba Legislature for the Carillon constituency in 1899, serving until 1903. He assisted in organizing the first Manitoba Liberal Association, along with Daniel McMillan and James Fisher. He served as a federal immigration agent in France and Belgium for several years, and as a homestead and forest inspector. He was a vigorous supporter of separate Catholic schools.

Martin Jérôme and Leocadie Carriere were married on 17 January 1871 in St. Norbert, Manitoba. Leocadie was the daughter of Andre Carriere and Marie Anne Rivard. She was born on 15 Jun 1851 in Saint-Pierre-Jolys. She died on 29 December 1932 in St. Vital.

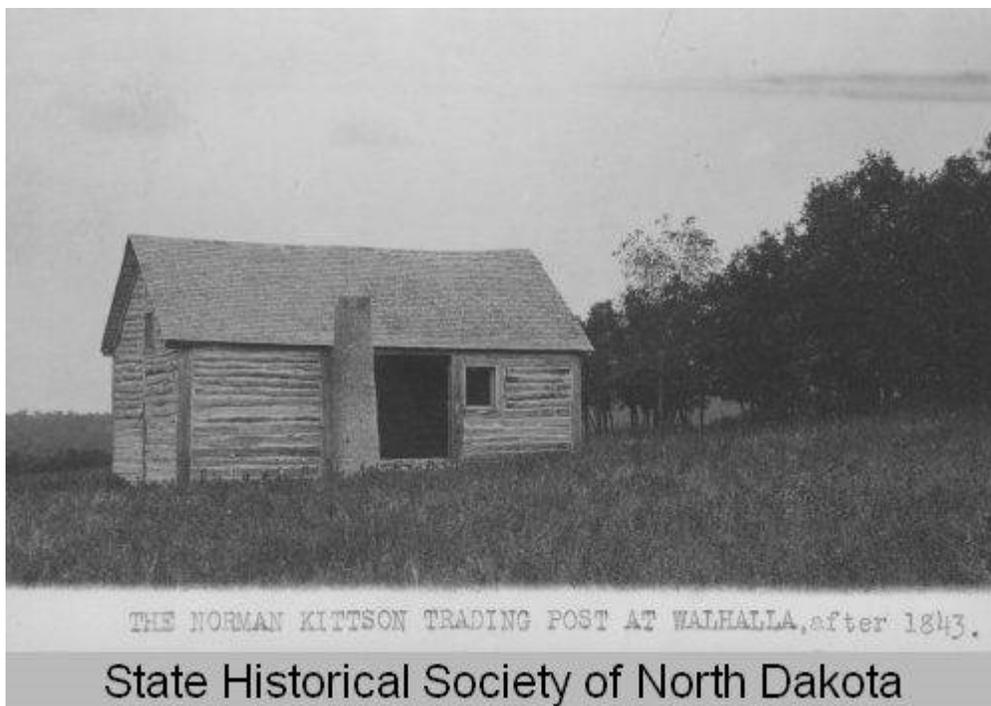
Martin Jérôme and Leocadie Carriere had the following children:

- Simon Guillaume b. October and died in 1871.
- Anne Vitaline, born on 26 Jul 1874, married Patrice Vandal, on 1 February 1897.
- Joseph Alfred, born on 9 February 1873, St. Norbert; married Lucie Carriere, on 26 June 1899, St. Pierre-Jolys, Manitoba, he died in 1899.
- Edouard, born on 12 November 1875, St. Norbert; married Melanie Frechette, on 10 June 1901, St. Malo, Manitoba, he died in 1901.
- Frederic was born about 1876.
- Leocadie was born about 1878
- Louise Virginie was born on 9 Nov 1880 in St. Pierre-Jolys
- Alexander Martin was born on 19 Apr 1882 in Youville, Manitoba. He died on 3 May 1882 in St. Pierre-Jolys, Manitoba.
- William Louis, born on 12 Apr 1883, St. Pierre-Jolys; married Sara Myrtle Kerr, on 23 December 1917; he died on 14 January 1944.
- Mathilde (Marianne) was born on 6 December 1884 in St. Pierre-Jolys, Manitoba.
- Marie Virginie Ida was born on 29 Jul 1886 in St. Pierre-Jolys, Manitoba.
- Alexandre Charles Auguste, born on 9 May 1888, St. Pierre-Jolys, Manitoba; married Alice McDougall, on 17 June 1922, Winnipeg.

Alexander Kittson, MLA (1853-1883)

¹⁰ Raymond Huel, *Archbishop A.A. Taché of St. Boniface*. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2003: 296.

¹¹ Huel, *op. cit.* p. 326.



Alexander was born at North Pembina, February 26 1953, the son of Norman Wolfred Kittson and Elise Marion, the daughter of Narcisse Marion. Norman Kittson¹² was a partner in the American Fur Company and had businesses at St. Paul, Pembina, St. Joseph and Winnipeg. Alexander married Elise Gingras, the Métis daughter of St. Joseph fur trader Antoine Gingras on 8 July 1875. The Kittson trading [post at St. Joseph, now Walhalla is shown above.

Alexander was educated at St. Boniface College and became a member of the Board of Education for Manitoba. Alexander was elected to the Manitoba Legislature in 1879 and served until 1883 representing the constituency of Ste. Agathe.

At the age of twenty-six, Kittson was elected in 1879 to the provincial legislature to represent the Métis community of Ste. Agathe. Here he gained the reputation of solidly representing the interests of the French and Métis population (Kittson himself was of mixed Scottish and Métis descent); he was re-elected by acclamation. Kittson also owned a real estate company jointly with M. LaRivière, situated at the corner of Provencher and Taché. He was treasurer of the newly-formed Municipality of St. Boniface, treasurer of a colonization company, and on the executive of local cultural organizations. When he died suddenly of smallpox in 1883, the funeral was a major event, with the English papers describing Kittson as "an exemplary young man of steady habits, obliging and very much esteemed".¹³

¹² Norman Wolfred Kittson (1814-1888) was an important fur trader, steamboat proprietor and railroad entrepreneur in the Pembina County and Red River area.

¹³ "Maison Kittson." Winnipeg: Historical Buildings Committee, 25 August 1982: pg. 1.



George Klyne (Kline), MLA. (b. 1828)



George was the son of Michel Klyne Sr. and Suzanne La France, he was born at Rivière Athabasca, NWT on 13 August 1828. He was educated at St. Boniface. He married Marie Ducharme *dite* McKay in 1847. They had one daughter. In 1863, he married for a second time to Monique Berthelet *dite* Savoyard. There were twelve children born to this union.

George's family was enumerated at Pembina in the 1850 census of the Minnesota Territory. George is also listed in the 1854 Treaty List of the Chippewa Indians of Lake Superior and the Mississippi. At that time he was living at Scratching River. In 1859, Georges, along with three other men were selected by James McKay to meet the Earl of Southesk and George Simpson at St. Paul and escort them to the Red River Settlement. He continued with the party as they moved west with James McKay's brother John McKay as Head Guide.¹⁴ George Klyne belonged to Red River's French Métis

¹⁴ At the age of 32, James Carnegie, the 9th Earl of Southesk, travelled to Canada from his native Scotland in 1859, after being advised that it would improve his health that had deteriorated following the death of his wife. He wrote that the reason for his journey was to, "travel in some part of the world where good sport could be met with among the larger animals, and where, at the same time, I might recruit my health by an active open-air life in a healthy climate." The Earl travelled though the United States to St. Paul, Minnesota and crossed the prairies, hunting buffalo along the way.

community.

His father Michael had served at Fort Edmonton and Jasper House, where George was born. Southesk¹⁵ said the younger Klyne, “wiry, active and clever”, was an expert handler of horses and dog teams. He goes on to give this description: “Kline, wiry and active, riding Lane— that fine old white mountain-horse, which few but he could capture when loose on the plains— made a gay and cheerful show; his broad-rimmed white hat, with its wavy blue-ribbon streamers, perched upon long curly black hair, and shading a clever, well-bearded face; his chest surmounted by belts of silver and red brocade.. (p. 203)

In 1860, George was enumerated in the Dakota Territory census and is shown to be working as a ferryman at Pembina. He was imprisoned by Riel in 1869 but escaped. He was a French-speaking delegate to the Convention of Forty in 1870, representing Pointe à Grouette. Georges was elected to Manitoba’s first legislature in 1870 to represent the riding of St. Agathe. He served until 1874.

William Lagimodiere, MLA (1858-1930)

William was born on 29 April 1858, son of Elzear Lagimodière and Sarah Goulet, and the great-grandson of Jean Baptiste Lagimodière and Marie Anne Gaboury. He was educated at St. Boniface College and was appointed Secretary-Treasurer for the Rural Municipality of Taché in 1880. He took up farming in the Lorette area of Manitoba.

William served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the R.M. of Taché from 1880 to 1902. He was elected to the Manitoba Legislature in the 1888 general election, for the LaVérendrye constituency, serving a single term, then was elected again in 1900 and 1903.¹⁶ In 1880, he married Lucie Alexandrine Genthon, the daughter of Joseph Genthon and Josephte Marion. They had three sons and five daughters. He died suddenly at his home in Lorette, Manitoba on 20 October 1930.



Maxime Lépine, MLA (b. 1836)

Maxime Lépine was born in St. Boniface, the son of Jean-Baptiste Berard *dit* Lépine and Julia Henry (Métis). Maxime married Josephte Lavallee also of St. Boniface. They had six children who lived to adulthood.

¹⁵ Southesk, James Carnegie. *Saskatchewan and the Rocky Mountains: A diary and narrative of travel, sport, and adventure during a journey through the Hudson's Bay Company's territories, in 1859 and 1860.* Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas, 1874.

¹⁶ MLA (1888-1892), MLA (1900-1903), MLA (1903-1907).



Maxime lived at St. François Xavier in the 1870s and ran a freighting company that used Red River carts to transport goods as far west as Fort Carlton and Ile-a-la-Crosse, and south to Pembina and St. Paul Minnesota.

Maxime was brother-in-law and close friend of Louis Riel. Both Maxime and his brother Ambroise Didyme were members of Riel's first Provisional government in 1869. Ambroise was Riel's military commander during the 1869-70 Resistance. After Manitoba entered confederation in 1870, Maxime escaped reprisals from Ontario Orangemen. He was a founding member of the Métis organization, Union Saint-Alexandre in 1871.

Maxime was elected to the Manitoba Legislature on December 23, 1874 as M.L.A. from St. François Xavier and served until 1878. Due to the influx of eastern settlers and the erosion of Métis rights he left the province in 1882 and moved to St. Louis de Langevin on the South Saskatchewan River. There he operated a ferry from his river lot and farmed. On November 19, 1883, he signed a petition protesting the Order-in-Council transferring the Métis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company (largely owned by Conservative politicians and their relatives).

He was active in the 1885 Métis Resistance at Batoche. He was a member of Riel's Exovedate. Along with his two sons he fought at Tourond's Coulee and Batoche. At Tourond's Lépine held a Cross in one hand and his rifle in the other, he never fired a shot because his gun was defective. Lépine was arrested on May 19, 1885 and sentenced to seven years prison at Regina on August 14, 1885 but was released in 1886. He died in poverty at Duck Lake, Saskatchewan on 16 September 1897.

Angus McKay, MLA, MP (1836-c. 1897)

Angus was the brother of the famous James McKay. He was born on November 1, 1836 at Edmonton House; the son of James McKay Sr. and Marguerite Gladu. He married Virginie Rolette (b. 1849) at St. Boniface. The couple lived in St. Charles Parish and later at St. François Xavier Parish. Like his brother James, Angus was fluent in French, English, and several Indian languages.

Angus opposed Louis Riel in 1869 and was elected to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly in 1870 to represent the Lake Manitoba riding. The following year he attended several meetings of the Métis, including one at Riel's home in St. Vital on October 6th. At that gathering he was among those who felt the Métis should respond positively to the proclamation of Lieutenant-Governor Adams George Archibald calling on all men to join forces with the government against a possible Fenian invasion.

In March 1871, Angus ran for Marquette in a special election to determine Manitoba's first representatives to the House of Commons. The election resulted in a tie between McKay and Dr James Spencer Lynch, a prominent supporter of John Christian Schultz. Although both men were declared



“returned as elected” to the single member constituency by the house in April 1872 and took their seats (on different days), they subsequently withdrew while the house committee on elections studied the problem. Parliament was dissolved before the committee reported. McKay was not a candidate in the federal general election later that year. He was re-elected by acclamation on December 23, 1874 and resigned in December 1876 to make way for his brother James who then won Lake Manitoba riding by acclamation. .

Late in 1876, Angus accepted the position of Indian agent for portions of the southern prairies and the Qu’Appelle valley covered in Treaty No.4. Officials of the department believed that he encouraged the Indians to express dissatisfaction with government actions, thus in 1879 he was posted to northern Manitoba, first at Grand Rapids, and then, in 1883, at Berens River, where it was hoped he could do “little or no harm.” He then served as Indian Agent at Norway House in 1894. Despite his numerous requests for transfer he remained Indian agent in the area covered by Treaty No.5 until 1897.

Alexander “Sandy” Murray, MLA (1839-1913)

Alexander was born in Kildonan on April 18, 1839, the son of James Murray (Scott) and Elizabeth Holmes (Métis). He was educated at St. John’s College under Bishop Anderson and won a scholarship in 1857. In 1861 he married Letitia Flett (also Métis), the daughter of the Reverend George Flett and Frances Fanny Cook. They had seven children.

Alexander was one of the founders of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, in 1873. He was elected to the Manitoba Legislature in 1874 and re-elected in 1878 for the constituency of St. Charles. He vacated his seat to serve as Police Magistrate in East Marquette, but remained in the position briefly. In 1879, he was elected to the legislature for Assiniboia, and re-elected in 1883 as a Liberal-Conservative. In April he was appointed Speaker of the House in which capacity he served until December 1886. He was appointed Minister of Municipal Affairs on July 7, 1887, and remained in office until April 30, 1888. He then accepted a post in the Municipal Commissioner’s office which he held for many years. He was twice a delegate to Ottawa as a promoter of “Better Terms.”

He died at the family residence in St. Charles on May 12, 1913, and was buried in Headingley Cemetery.

Charles Nolin. MLA (1823-1907)

Charles Nolin, a Metis, was born May 2, 1838 at St. Boniface. He was the son of Augustin Nolin and Helen Ann Cameron (Métis). Charles married Marie-Anne Harrison, a cousin of Louis Riel. She died and he remarried to Rosalie Lépine the niece of Ambroise and Maxime Lépine. Charles Nolin was the leader of the anti-Riel Métis. This group included the Léveillé, Charette, Dease and Hamelin families. In the Convention of Forty Georges Klyne and Thomas Harrison were aligned with Nolin.

Charles was educated by Bishop Provencher and worked as a fur trader and merchant. He was a member of the Convention of Forty under Riel and elected to the Provincial Legislature as member from Ste. Anne des Chênes in 1874 and 1878. In 1874, he took part in the agitation that preceded the 1885 Resistance, and acted as a member of

Riel's 16-man Council (Exovedate) at Batoche during the 1885 Resistance. However, he parted from Riel and Dumont when it came to the use of arms. The council of the Provisional government set up on March 19, 1885 tried Charles Nolin and William Boyer for acting against the cause but after defending themselves and pledging allegiance they were acquitted. Nolin then deserted at Duck Lake and fled to Prince Albert where he was locked up after surrendering.

Although Nolin was Louis Riel's cousin, he testified against Riel. The Métis at Batoche viewed him as a "*vendus*" or sell-out. He was elected to the North West Territories Legislative Council in 1891 but was disqualified because of vote fraud. He died at Battleford on January 28, 1907.



John Norquay, MLA, Premier of Manitoba (1878-1889)

John Norquay was born on May 8, 1841 in the Parish of St. Andrews. His parents were John Norquay and Isabella Truthwaite. His paternal grandfather, Oman Norquay, came from the Orkneys to Hudson's Bay and married Jean Morwick, the Métis daughter of another Orkneyman. His maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Vincent, was the daughter of a Métis woman and an HBC officer.



John was the fifth of six children. At the age of two years, his mother died and his paternal grandmother, Mrs James Spence took care of him. His father died six years later in 1849. He attended school at the Parish of St. John's. He became a protégé of David Anderson, the Bishop of Rupert's Land, who provided him with odd jobs and who awarded him a scholarship for general proficiency in 1854, thus he was able to continue his studies at St. John's College. He studied Greek and Latin and became fluent in French. At that time the Church Missionary Society encouraged the learning of Indian languages thus, John learned Cree, Sauteaux and a little Sioux. John Norquay remained active in the Church of England and from 1875 on was an elected representative to the synod of the Rupert's Land diocese.

At seventeen, he obtained a position in the Parish School of St. James, and then taught at Park Creek School (now Parkdale). About this time, June 2, 1862, he married Elizabeth Setter, also a Half-Breed, and the daughter of George Setter who ran Manitoba House in 1849. In 1866, they moved to High Bluff near Portage la Prairie and John took up farming. He also traded furs on Lake Manitoba and even had a small store located at Kinosota. Elizabeth Norquay recalls:

We worked hard, we did not have much but our needs were simple. I had never believed we could live on fish, as we had to do when the grasshoppers came and ate everything green. We moved from our farm at High Bluff before our flour supply was all used, to Lake Manitoba, so that we could get fish. We mixed our flour with fish and made fish rolls. There was a salt spring there and the people used to make salt and sell it. Salt was scarce so we preserved our meet by drying. Sugar was scarce too so we had no cakes or pies and we preserved our berries by drying. We would dry them in a cake and when we wanted some for the table we would break off a piece and add sugar to it. The women used to pound

*chokecherries and put them with the pemmican, just as we used currant jelly with mutton.*¹⁷

The couple had eight children between 1863 and 1881. Their last child, Theodora, died in infancy.

Norquay was not directly involved in the Resistance of 1869-70 although he did attend several of the public meetings concerning the Provisional Government. He also signed the election certificate of his cousin, also John Norquay, who was elected to Riel's Provisional Government.

On December 27, 1870 the constituent's of High Bluff elected Norquay by acclamation to serve in Manitoba's first Legislative Assembly. He made one attempt at federal election in 1872 in Marquette riding and was defeated by Robert Cunningham. Cunningham, who was born in Scotland, was a strong supporter of the Métis community. He supported Louis Riel and a general amnesty for those involved in the Red River Resistance as well as land reforms for the Metis.

From about 1874 to the early 1880s, the Norquay family lived on a small farm in St. Andrews just north of Winnipeg. Given his high standing in the Anglican Church and among the English Half-Breeds, he was elected from St. Andrews in 1874 and retained the seat until his death in 1899.

In the legislature, Norquay defended the rights of the Métis and Half-Breeds citing their contributions in the west. His moderate stance on most social issues led to promotion in the Assembly and he was appointed to succeed Robert Atkinson Davis as Premier in November 1878. He sought a new mandate on December 18, 1878 and was re-elected, but won his own riding by only eight votes. Although he was a Conservative in federal politics, he resisted the introduction of federal party lines into Manitoba, because he felt that a non-partisan approach would further his negotiations with Ottawa. Norquay was re-elected in the general election of December 9, 1886. In September of 1887 his government was accused of using the trust funds set aside for Métis children as general revenue. Norquay, against the wishes of Sir John A. Macdonald promoted a rail link with the United States, the Red River Valley Railroad. His government went ahead and paid \$256,000 compensation to the CPR, then the Prime Minister disallowed the land transfer. Norquay was then forced to resign on December 23, 1887. In the 1888 election the Liberals had a landslide victory, however Norquay retained his seat in the Kildonan riding.

One year before his death in 1889, John Norquay is credited with making the first ascent of the peak that carries his name. Mount Norquay is a 2,522-metre mountain located in the Canadian Rockies near the town of Banff, Alberta. In reality he did not actually reach the summit due to health problems.

References

Barkwell, Lawrence J., "John Norquay (1841-1889)", *Buffalo Trails and Tales*, Volume, XXXIX, Fall 2004: 8.

¹⁷ W.J. Healy, *Women of Red River*, Winnipeg: The Canadian Women's Book Club, 1923.

Friesen, Gerald. "John Norquay." *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XI, (1881-1890). Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1982: 642-647.

Thomas Norquay, MLA (1843-1892)

Thomas was the son of John Norquay (b. 1810) and Isabel Truthwaite and the younger brother of John Norquay Jr. Thomas married Elizabeth Miller, the daughter of Robert Miller and Elizabeth Setter on May 10, 1866 at St. Andrew's. Thomas was educated at the local parish school and St. John's College. For nine years he farmed and taught school. Thomas and Elizabeth had twelve children.



Children of Thomas Norquay and Elizabeth Setter:

- Isabelle Catherine, born June 13, 1867, married Malcolm McRae.
- Sarah Anne, born January 4, 1869, married Donald McLennan.
- Robert John, born September 18, 1870, died 1871.
- Reverend Andrew Thomas, born June 15, 1872, married Helen "Nellie" Proctor.
- Alexander Charles, born April 2, 1874, married Helen Taylor.
- Margaret Rosaline, born June 4, 1877, died October 1915.
- Alice Maude, born June 6, 1879, died January 1927.
- William Alfred,
• born June 6, 1879, married Christine Anderson, then married Florence Henderson.
- Jacob Truthwaite, born May 13, 1884, married Ethel Scott.
- Lawrence B., born May 27, 1886, died 1948.
- John, born November 8, 1889, married Catherine Bird.

Thomas acted as Reverend John Black's emissary during the Anglophone militancy against Riel. Upon delivering a letter, Riel tore it up and jailed Thomas. Thomas went on

to become a member of the legislative assembly, succeeding his brother, John Norquay. He was elected to the Manitoba Legislature in the Kildonan by-election of February 1890. He died at Winnipeg on 9 June 1892 as a result of a railway accident.

Denis Rocan, MLA (b. 1949)

Métis politician Denis Rocan was a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba from 1986 to 2007, and served as speaker of the assembly from 1988 to 1995. He often wore his Métis sash and displayed his Manitoba Métis Federation Membership when debating issues of concern to the Métis people of Manitoba. Rocan was a member of the Progressive Conservative party, but became an independent in 2007. He was, at the time, the only Métis MLA, and the only Tory who spoke French.

Rocan was born on February 14, 1949 to a Métis family in Somerset, Manitoba and was raised in north-end Winnipeg. His Métis roots go back to the Lagimodière family. He was educated at Sacré-Coeur in Winnipeg, Somerset Collegiate and Otterburne College. He is fluently bilingual in English and French. Rocan worked as a farmer before entering political life, and also operated a building and moving company and a grain business. He was first elected to the Manitoba legislature in 1986, winning the rural, southern constituency of Turtle Mountain.



Rocan was re-elected in the 1988 election, the Progressive Conservatives emerged from this election with a minority government and Rocan was appointed as speaker of the assembly by Premier Gary Filmon on July 21, 1988.

Rocan was easily re-elected in the 1990 election in the redistributed constituency of Gladstone. He won the constituency for a second time in the 1995 election, but was not re-appointed as speaker and served for the next four years as a backbench supporter of Filmon's government. Rocan was respected by all parties in the legislature, and his tenure as speaker was free of the controversies over partisanship which plagued his successor, Louise Dacquay.

Further redistribution brought Rocan into the riding of Carman for the 1999 election. He was easily returned, and was re-elected again in 2003. On November 16, 2006, Rocan lost the Carman Conservative nomination to Blaine Pederson. On April 18, 2007, Rocan was removed from the Conservative caucus for supporting the NDP budget, which his party opposed. He considered running as an independent candidate in 2007, but declined.

Louis Schmidt, MLA (1844-1935)

Schmidt was born on December 4, 1844 at Old Fort Chipewyan. His father, Alfred “Rabasca” Smith, was a HBC fisherman and freighter and his mother, Marguerite Lespérance, was the daughter of a Red River Métis guide. Schmidt indicated that his paternal grandfather was Nicholas Andrews a HBC employee at Athabasca who was married to Marie-Anne Généreux, a Métis from Great Slave Lake. Andrews deserted Marie-Anne and she then married Pierre Laferté and then married Schmidt. Louis said that he went by the name Laferté until Bishop Taché changed it in 1858, believing Schmidt to be his true name.

In 1854, Schmidt joined his mother at Red River where she had travelled for medical attention. He enrolled in the Brothers of Christian School and was one of four Métis boys (along with Louis Riel) selected by Taché to do advanced studies in Quebec colleges. He attended Collège St. Hyacinthe until 1861. He went to live with his mother and grandfather, Alexis Lespérance. He obtained work with the Oblates preparing Cree grammars and dictionaries then in 1863 went to Pembina to work for Joseph Lemay a customs collector. Due to problems with Lemay’s wife (namely, his drinking), he was forced to move to St. Joseph where Father Alexis André took him in. In December of 1863, he accompanied Father André as the American government’s peace envoy to the Sioux Indians. Schmidt then returned to Red River in the summer 1864. Bishop Taché then placed him in charge of the churches cart trains going to St. Paul, Minnesota for supplies. He was also employed as a teacher at Collège St. Boniface. In the spring of 1866, he was assigned to accompany Father Ritchot to the mission at Qu’Appelle. When his uncle, Louis Lespérance fell ill at Fort Ellice, Schmidt went there to take him back to Red River. Later that year he took charge of his grandfather’s carting business and went on the fall buffalo hunt down to the Grand Coteau.

The following year Schmidt worked for a mail contractor on the Abercrombie, Devil’s Lake, Helena, Montana mail route. He was badly frozen during this venture and lost some toes so he returned home with very little money. However, he received his compensation from the United States government for the Sioux negotiations completed four years earlier and used this money to outfit himself as a freighter on the route to Saulk Rapids, Minnesota. In 1869, he apparently promised bishop Taché that he would stop drinking. It was at this time that he went to live with Louis Riel.

Louis Schmidt was a boyhood friend and schoolmate of Riel and became extensively involved during both Resistances. Schmidt was a delegate from St. Boniface to the Convention of Forty and was appointed Assistant Secretary of State. He was elected to the Manitoba legislature from the riding of St. Boniface West in 1870. He was married to Justine Laviolette in 1872. After the annexation of his riding to that of St. Charles he



ran in St. Charles in 1874 and was defeated. In 1878 he ran and was elected in St. François Xavier. He was also very active in the St. Jean Baptiste Society and l'Union St. Alexandre, the Métis Association.

In June of 1880, in response to his ongoing drinking problem, Schmidt left St. Boniface and went to Duck Lake where he met with Father André. The priest suggested that he establish himself on the South Saskatchewan River at the site of present day St. Louis. While there, he soon became involved in the Métis grievances against the federal land surveys. In the winter of 1881 he drafted a petition to the Minister of the Interior for the residents of St. Louis and in the fall of 1882 sent a similar petition on behalf of the residents at Batoche. In the summer of 1883, Schmidt acted as secretary for the first of the large public meetings at St. Laurent regarding the resident's grievances with the federal government. In the meantime, he had gained employment in the office of a Prince Albert barrister. On May 6, 1884 Schmidt was at a meeting of English mixed-bloods and settlers in Prince Albert (again he was secretary) and he suggested that they send a delegation to Riel in Montana to obtain his assistance. Schmidt was to accompany them but on May 12th, he received his long sought appointment to the Land Office and Father André persuaded him to stay behind. Nevertheless, he continued to assist the Métis by publishing their grievances in *Le Manitoba*. When Riel arrived, Schmidt went to St. Laurent to volunteer his services but Riel declined, believing he could be most useful to them in the Land Office. Over the next few months, Schmidt became concerned over Riel's behaviour, he communicated this to Bishop Taché and implored him to make the Métis grievances better known and thus head off violence and what he viewed as Riel's heretical preaching. By becoming vocal with these criticisms many Métis became convinced that Schmidt had not only abandoned the Métis cause but had betrayed the cause. Nonetheless, when conflict broke out in March of 1885, the government arrested Schmidt.

Louis Schmidt, *dit* Laferté, is remembered in the Fransaskois community for defending francophone language rights in Saskatchewan. The Fransaskois historian Raymond Huel, for instance, has written three articles about Louis Schmidt "Living in the Shadow of Greatness: Louis Schmidt, Riel's Secretary," *Native Studies Review*, Vol. 1, 1984, pp. 16-27; "Louis Schmidt: Patriarch of St. Louis," *Saskatchewan History*, Vol. 40, No. 1, 1987, pp. 1-21 and "Louis Schmidt: A Forgotten Métis," in A.S. Lussier, Editor, *Riel and the Métis: Riel Mini-Conference Papers*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications; 1979; 1983, pp. 93-107).

David Spence, MLA (1824-1885)

David Spence was a Scottish Half Breed born on September 5, 1824, the son of James Spence and his second wife Jane Morwick. His mother was grandmother to Manitoba's first Premier John Norquay.



David married Catherine Hallett on February 15, 1844 at St. John's. She was the daughter of Henry Hallett and Catherine Parenteau. David represented the parish of St. Anne's at the Convention of Forty. In 1877 the family moved to lot #62 at Poplar Point. He was elected as the first MLA from Poplar Point. He was also a Justice of the Peace for Poplar Point and Marquette. Métisscrip was issued to David and Catherine on October 2, 1876. She died in 1880 at age 55. David was accidentally shot in his own home by a neighbour who thought that the rifle was unloaded. He subsequently died of his wound on September 16, 1885.

John Taylor, MLA (1834-1925)

John Taylor was born on January 24, 1834, the Métis son of James Taylor and his Cree wife Mary. His father, James Taylor was from the Orkney Islands and became chief fisherman for the Hudson's Bay Company. His mother Mary Inkster was a Métisse daughter of James Inkster and his Cree wife, Mary. John was born at Middlechurch, educated at St. Paul's School and was chosen by Bishop David Anderson to be trained to teach on the Indian settlements. Mary Inkster a Métisse. John left college in 1852 and Bishop Anderson assigned him to teach at Oxford House, he spent two years there and at Norway House. He returned to Red River and the Bishop assigned him to teach at the mission school at Headingley.



John married Flora Campbell on September 23, 1856 at St. John's. She was the daughter of Colin Campbell (a chief Factor of the HBC) and Elizabeth McGillvray. Together they had eight children. He then married Frances Jane Brown, the daughter of William Brown and Charlotte Omand on December 31, 1873 and they had fourteen children.

Taylor was the first schoolteacher at Headingley and became a political representative for that area. He was a large scale farmer and Headingley village was formed in the middle of his extensive 1,700 acre farm. He was an English-speaking delegate at the Convention of Forty in 1870. He was part of the armed party from Portage la Prairie that was imprisoned by Riel in February of 1870. Later, he was a magistrate and was elected to the Manitoba legislature as MLA from Assiniboia in 1871. Taylor also became a member of the Executive Council, Manitoba's short-lived upper house. That senatorial body voted itself out of existence in 1876 under pressure from Ottawa for budget cuts. He was Minister of Agriculture during 1878-79.

Roger Teillet , MLA, MP, PC (1912-2002)

Roger Teillet served in the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as a Liberal-Progressive from 1953 to 1959, and in the Canadian House of Commons as a Liberal from 1962 to 1968. Teillet was a cabinet minister in the governments of Lester Pearson and Pierre Elliott Trudeau. He served in the RCAF as a Flight Lieutenant during World War II (1939-1945).

Red River Métis Roger Teillet was a great nephew of Louis Riel, being the grandson of Louis Riel's younger brother, Joseph Riel. He was born on August 12, 1912 in St. Vital, across the road from the present Riel House historical site. He attended College Saint-Boniface but was forced to leave after two years because of the Depression. He apprenticed at the Banque Nationale then joined the Royal Canadian Air Force 17 days before Canada entered World War II. He served as a navigator in the 35 Squadron and was shot down while on his 25th night bombing raid (August 23, 1942). He parachuted behind German lines at Recy, France thus becoming a member of the "Caterpillar Club" for airmen saved by parachute on land. He evaded capture for 15 days before he was taken prisoner. He was imprisoned at Stalag III (Sagan, Germany). During the Great Escape from this camp, later immortalized in movies, Roger was number 136 on the escape list. Seventy-six men got out before their escape tunnel was discovered. Seventy-three of these men were recaptured and the Germans shot fifty of those. When the Russians entered Germany in January 1945, the prisoners were herded back and forth across Germany and many perished on the "death marches." The British liberated Roger and his group on May 6, 1945, Roger weighed only 127 pounds when liberated. Subsequently, he always wore his Bird in a Cage pin, the symbol of imprisoned flyers.



Upon returning to Winnipeg, Roger opened an insurance agency and settled down with his wife Jeanne. He then ran in the provincial election and served as a Liberal MLA under Premier Douglas Campbell. He ran for the Canadian House of Commons in the federal election of 1962, and defeated incumbent Progressive Conservative Laurier Regnier by 2,601 votes in the federal riding of St. Boniface. He defeated Regnier again in the 1963 election, in which the Liberals won a minority government under Lester Pearson. Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson made him minister of Veterans Affairs in April of 1963. In 1968, after Pierre Trudeau's election call, Teillet lost the Liberal nomination to Joe Guay by 100 votes. Trudeau subsequently named Teillet as head of the Canadian Pension Commission and gave him a mandate to reform veterans' pensions. He always said that this was his proudest accomplishment. Roger retired from the commission in 1980 and continued to live in Ottawa. His wife Jeanne predeceased him in 2000.

Reference:

Teillet, Kathleen, "A Manitoba native son is laid to rest." *Winnipeg Free Press*, May 12, 2002: A4.