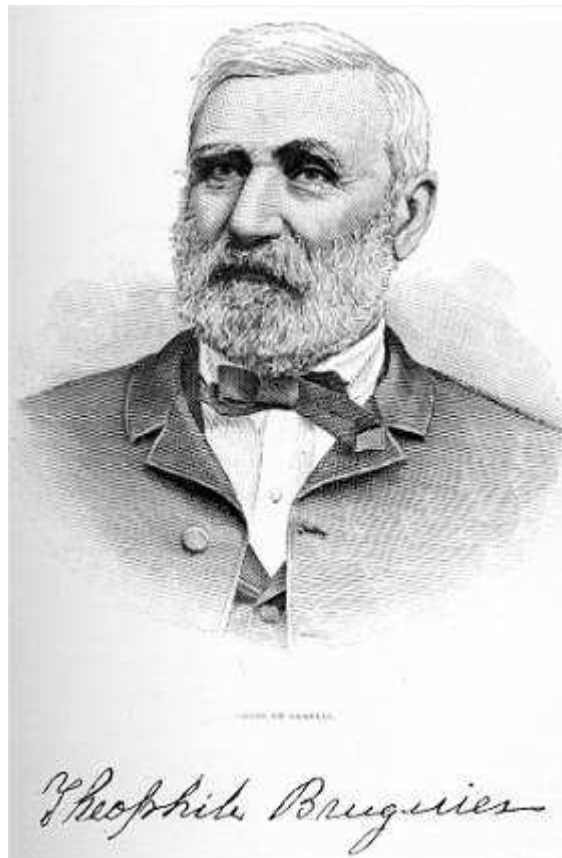


Theophile Bruguier. (1813-1896)

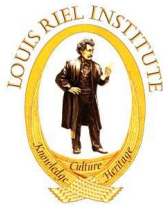
Metis trader Theophile Bruguier was born on August 31, 1813, at L'Assumption in Lower Canada, the son of Jean Baptiste Bruguier a Métis, and Elizabeth Kipp. He was educated in the French language and originally studied law. After his fiancée died from cholera, Theophile left Canada to work for the American Fur Company in St. Louis, Missouri as a trader and interpreter. He was first posted to Fort Pierre in the Dakota Territory. He arrived there on January 1, 1836. He also spent an extended period of time in charge of the Fort Vermilion Post. Later he began working as an independent fur trader dealing with the Sioux Indians. In his travels along the Missouri River he established good relations with the Yankton Sioux, a group led by Wah-me-da-wah-kee (War Eagle). Bruguier married Blazing Cloud (21 Jun 1837 at Fort Vermillion) and Dawn, both daughters of Chief War Eagle. With Blazing Cloud he had seven children and with his wife Dawn he had six more children.



In May of 1849, Theophile and his family settled at the mouth of the Big Sioux River, about two miles north of what was to become Sioux City, Iowa. His farm and

trading post included several log cabins and the teepees used by War Eagle's group. He not only assisted this tribe but was also instrumental in assisting many of the French Canadian settlers who came to the area. As Sioux City grew Bruguier continued as a trader and freighter and also served as an Indian Commissioner. His wives died in the late 1850s and he subsequently remarried to Victoria Turnott, a widow from St. Louis.

Under the Yankton Treaty Bruguier received \$3,000 for each of his children and \$3,000 for himself. In addition, each family member received a half section of land. Theophile himself had about 1,000 acres of land at one time. At the time of his death he was living on the one section he had kept. The rest of the land had been sold to Sioux City and became what was called Riverside Park. Theophile died of pneumonia on February 18, 1896. He was buried in the Catholic Cemetery near Salix, then reinterred on the bluff of War Eagle Park beside the graves of his Yankton wives and father-in-law.



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