

## **Logan Fontenelle.** (1825- 1855)

By Tanis Thorne and Lawrence Barkwell

Logan also known as Shon-ga-ska or Chief White Horse, was a so-called French-Indian who was elected chief of the Omaha tribe. His maternal grandfather was a chief and his father was a respected French-American fur trapper and trader. He was the eldest son of Lucien Fontenelle and his Omaha-Pawnee wife, *Me-um-bane* (The Rising Sun). Her father was Omaha/Pawnee head Chief, Big Elk I. Logan's father, Lucien, was a fur trader and entrepreneur. Logan and his brother Henry were educated in St. Louis. Logan married an Omaha woman in 1843. His younger brother, Henry Fontenelle married Emily Papin, daughter of LaForce Papin<sup>1</sup> and the sister of Pawnee Whiteman Chief. In 184, Fontenelle began to work as an interpreter for the US Indian agent at the Bellevue Agency. He worked 13 years as an interpreter.



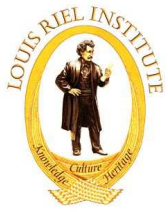
Logan Fontenelle was born at Fort Atkinson in 1825. He was the oldest son of noted French trapper and trader Lucien Fontenelle and *Me-um-bane*. In 1828, Lucien Fontenelle became the agent at what became known as Fontenelle's Post, a fur trading post owned by the American Fur Company on the Missouri River. Logan became an Omaha Chief and went to Washington in 1854 to negotiate for the Omaha Tribe (Logan spoke French, English and Omaha). Fontenelle was largely responsible for securing the land where white settlers founded Bellevue, Nebraska. As chief, he was among seven who ceded 4,000,000 acres (16,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of Omaha land to the United States in 1854. In 1855 he led a group to buffalo hunt to the west along the River Platte (in what is now Boone County). While travelling along the Elkhorn River they were attacked by Brulé Sioux and Arapaho Indians. Logan went out to meet them with his new double-barreled rifle. He shot three of the Sioux before he was killed and scalped. During this trip he was accompanied by Joseph LaFlesche who succeeded him as chief. His companions sewed his body in an elk skin and brought it back to the Missouri River where they buried him between Omaha and Bellevue. Some regarded Logan Fontenelle as the "last great chief" of the Omaha.

### Reference:

Tanis Thorne, *The Many Hands of My Relations: French and Indians on the Lower Missouri*. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1996.

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<sup>1</sup> Alexander LaForce Papin called "LeFos" was part Osage and was born in Neosho Co, Kansas about 1826, he died in 1862. His spouse: Elizabeth Jane Blythe, called "Jennie" also part Osage/Pawnee was born in 1835 and died in 1863



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell  
Coordinator of Metis Heritage and History Research  
Louis Riel Institute