

Thomas, Charles. (1845-1925)

Charles, also called Challius¹ (Châlins), was the son of Joseph Thomas dit Roussain (b. 1816)² and Marie Adele Wakitipik Michel. He was married to Helene Letendré (b. 1847), the daughter of Louis Letendre (b. 1801) and Marie Hallett at St. Boniface on June 13, 1870. They had nine children. They lived on the south half of Lot 48 (T43-1-3) in the St. Laurent Settlement southeast of his brother-in-law (Letendré). Charles and Helene lived next to François-Xavier Letendré on the south half of Lot forty-eight in Batoche. From time to time Charles operated Francois-Xavier's post at Fort à la Corne.

Children of Charles and Helene:

- Mary Jane, born 15 October, 1871 at La Petite Ville; Fish Creek, Saskatchewan; died: 15 December, 1871 at La Petite Ville.
- Victor, born: 6 January, 1873 at La Petite Ville; Saskatchewan (Fish Creek).
- Rosalie, born 24 February, 1875 at La Petite Ville; Saskatchewan; died: June, 1889 at Batoche.
- Mathilde, born 14 December, 1876 at Blackfoot Crossing; died: February, 1877 at Blackfoot Crossing.
- Patrice, born 21 May, 1884 at Batoche, died the inter 1878-1879 near Swift Current.

Family Scrip Records:

Thomas, Charles; heir to his deceased son, Patrice Thomas; address: Batoche, Saskatchewan; born: 21 May, 1884 at Batoche, Saskatchewan; father: Charles Thomas (Métis and deponent); mother: Helene Letendre (Métis); died: 26 January, 1885 at Batoche; scrip cert.: form F, no. 197 for 240 acres; claim no. 346.

Thomas, Charles; heir to his deceased son, Patrice Thomas (No. 2); address: Batoche, Saskatchewan; born: 19 February, 1878 at Batoche, Saskatchewan; father: Charles Thomas (Métis and deponent); mother: Hélénee Letendre (Métis); died: Winter 1878-1879 near Swift Current; scrip cert.: form F, no. 203 for 240 acres; claim no. 348.

Thomas, Charles; heir to his deceased daughter, Mathilde Thomas; address: Batoche, Saskatchewan; born: 14 December, 1876 at Blackfoot Crossing; died: February, 1877 at Blackfoot Crossing; father: Charles Thomas (Métis and deponent); mother: Héléne Letendre (Métis); scrip cert.: form F, no. 201 for 240 acres; claim no. 357.

Thomas, Charles; heir to his deceased daughter, Rosalie Thomas; address: Batoche, Saskatchewan; born: 24 February, 1875 at La Petite Ville; Saskatchewan; died: June,

¹ How the Cree say Charles.

² Joseph Thomas was the brother of Chief Gabriel Cote of Saskatchewan, Joseph married Marie Adele at St. Francois Xavier sometime before 1840.

1889 at Batoche; father: Charles Thomas (Métis and deponent); mother: Hélene Letendre (Métis); scrip cert.: form D, no. 793 for \$240.00; claim no. 355.

Thomas, Charles; heir to his deceased daughter, Marie Jane; Thomas; address: Batoche, Saskatchewan; born: 15 October, 1871 at La Petite Ville; Fish Creek, Saskatchewan; died: 15 December, 1871 at La Petite Ville; father: Charles Thomas (Métis and deponent); mother: Hélene Letendre (Métis); scrip cert.: form F, no. 199 for 240 acres; claim no. 347.

Thomas, Victor; address: Batoche, Saskatchewan; born: 6 January, 1873 at La Petite Ville; Saskatchewan (Fish Creek); father: Charles Thomas (Métis); mother: Hélene Letendre (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 431 for 240 acres; claim no. 701.

Charles was a member of Captain William Boyer's company, one of the 19 dizaines led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. He was wounded in the arm at the battle of Tourond's Coulee. Charles was rescued at Tourond's Coulee by Edouard Dumont's arrival. Edouard gave him a coat because he was nearly frozen due to being pinned down in the water of the creek. Charles then headed up the hill after the soldiers but they had all retreated by then. On the last day of battle Moï se Ouellette gives this account of the retreat toward Champagne's house:

Charles Thomas arrives with his gun and his rosary. 'What is Riel saying?' he asks. 'Does he say that we're going to win?' [Ouellette replies] 'Eh! What are you talking about? Haven't you noticed that we're running away like rabbits? How do you expect us to win?'³



Edited and Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
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³ Rudy Wiebe and Bob Beal (Editors). *War in the West: Voices of the 1885 Rebellion*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Ltd., 1985: 127.