

Donald Ross. (1822-1885)

Donald Ross was a participant in the Battle of the Grand Coteau. This battle took place on the Grand coteau, just south of the big bend of the Souris River, between a Metis buffalo hunting party from St. François Xavier, led by Jean Baptiste Falcon and the Cut Head (Pabaksa) Yanktonai (Ihanktonwanna), Dakota, led by Chief Medicine (Sacred) Bear, on July 15 to 16, 1851.

Donald Ross, also known as Daniel Ross, was born at St. François Xavier, the son of Hugh Ross¹ and Sara Short. He married Catherine Delorme, the daughter of Urbaine Henault dit Delorme and Madeleine Vivier on May 22, 1848 at St. Francois Xavier. They eventually moved to a claim south of Tourond's Coulee along the South Saskatchewan River.

Children of Donald Ross and Catherine Delorme:

- Catherine, born august 25, 1849, married Cleophas Gervais.
- William, born June 2, 1851, married Marie Lefort.
- Elise, born June 14, 1853, married Jean Baptiste Lefort.
- Marguerite, born 1885, married Calixte Tourond.
- Blandine, born September 18, 1857, married Joseph Chabot, then married Maurice Henry.
- Marie Rosine, born November 21, 1859, married Boniface Lefort.
- Julie, born March 8, 1862, married William Thorn.
- Louis, born January 20, 1864, married Marie Adele Ross, then married Mathilde Dumont (daughter of Isidore Dumont).
- Florestine, born 1867, died 1884.
- Anne, born November 15, 1870, died November 4, 1886.
- Sarah, born circa 1871, married David Short.
- Daniel, born February 8, 1873, died November 29, 1899.

Ross was a member of Riel's Council (Exovedate) at Batoche during the 1885 Resistance. Ross was one of the men who came to the rescue of those trapped at Tourond's Coulee:

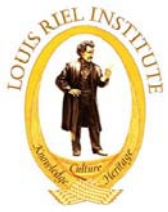
[Isidore Dumas reported] The first ones to come to the rescue at the battle of Fish Creek were Joseph Arcand riding Napoleon Nault's little gray mare; Moise Ouellette; Edouard Dumont; and Daniel Ross.²

During the fighting at Batoche Ross shot and killed Captain French and was subsequently killed by one of French's scouts on May 12, 1885, the last day of fighting at Batoche. He was first fatally wounded and was finally killed with a bayonet.³ He is buried at St. Antoine de Padoue Cemetery, Batoche.

¹ Hugh Ross held HBC lot 1518 at Red River.

² Société historique métisse fonds (SHM) Boite 1346, Chemise 066: p. 41.

³ The accounts of his death vary, one newspaper says: "Among the killed is Ross, the noted recalcitrant, the Gatling cut him to pieces.



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In one little thicket three lay dead.” (Brandon Sun, May 21, 1885)