

Elise Marion. (b. 1831)

Elise Marion, born December 18, 1831 at York Factory. Elise was the daughter of HBC blacksmith Narcisse Marion of Norwood (b: December 8, 1805) and Marie Rosalie Grandbois dite Bouchard or Richard (b: 1814). Elise married Norman Wolfred William Kittson¹ (b: 1814) in 1847 in St Boniface Parish Church. Elise was 14 and Kittson was 33. He was the son of William Kittson and Helene McDonald.

Commodore Norman W. Kittson, was the millionaire head of the Red River Navigation Company's fleet of sternwheel steamers which served Winnipeg in the early days. Kittson, a fur trader, helped end the Hudson Bay Company's fur trading monopoly. In 1849; he became a member of the Minnesota Territorial Councils 7th District, from 1852 to 1855 he was mayor of St. Paul Minnesota. From 1858 to 1859; he operated steamboats on the Red River from Minnesota north into Winnipeg in the 1870. He then worked with James J. Hill to build the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway in 1879-81. Commodore Kittson was 33 when he came seeking a bride at the house of Narcisse Marion. Elise Marion was just fourteen. Bridegrooms of pioneer days were often older; but Kittson, who had made a fortune in the fur trade and another fortune in the steamboat business, had since he was a young man carried a weight of responsibility which, had brought early wrinkles and the aspect of age.

Elise Kittson, in her grand home on Summit Avenue, St. Paul, was a hostess of hostesses when her Norwood friends came to visit her. The Commodore lived on congenially till, in the late eighties he died in a sleeping car en route to Chicago.

Elise died December 28, 1867 in St Paul, Minnesota, at the age of 36 years. Kittson died in 1888.



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¹ Kittson was previously married to Agnes La Tender, daughter of Pa-Si-Mon and Ma-Che-Quo-Nok in the Washington Territory sometime before 1829 in a Country Custom Marriage. He then married Adele Marion..