

## **Joseph Octave Nolin, M.L.A. (1867-1925)**

Joseph was born on May 16, 1867 in Bottineau, North Dakota, the son of Joseph Nolin and Marie Anne Gaudry. He was educated in Ste. Anne des Chenes, Manitoba. He married Marie Villeneuve, the daughter of Theophile Villeneuve and Eliza McGillis in 1891 at Battleford. They had 15 children and homesteaded in the Meota and Jackfish Lake districts of Saskatchewan where he ranched and farmed. For ten years, he was captain of a steam ferry which crossed the Saskatchewan River at Battleford. He was also involved in road construction. He also served as a Justice of the Peace. Joe was multilingual, speaking, Michif, French, Cree, English and German. Joe was said to weigh over three-hundred pounds. He was a sportsman and travelled extensively by dog sled, canoe, horseback and later by auto. His grandfather, Augustin Nolin, fought on the Canadian side during the War of 1812.

Joseph was one of Saskatchewan's first Metis MLA's. Nolin, a Liberal, was the only representative of the former electoral district of Athabasca, which existed from 1908 until 1917. He then represented the Ile-a-la-Crosse riding from 1917 to 1926.



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