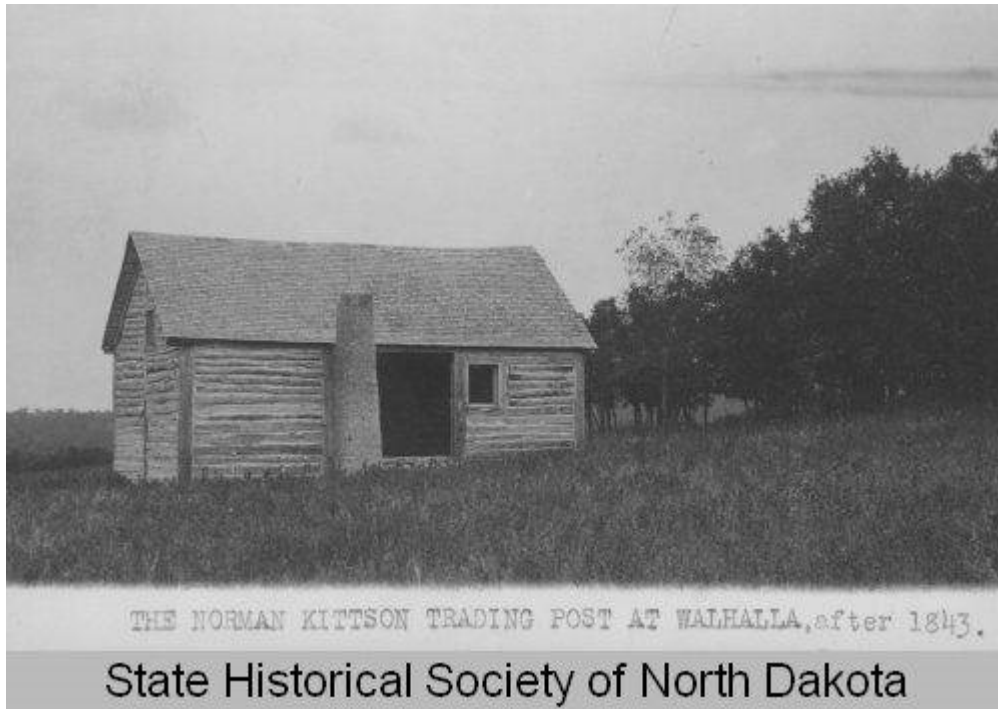


Alexander Kittson, M.L.A. (1853-1883)



Alexander was born at North Pembina, February 26 1853, the son of Norman Wolfred Kittson and Elise Marion, the daughter of Narcisse Marion. Norman Kittson¹ was a partner in the American Fur Company and had businesses at St. Paul, Pembina, St. Joseph and Winnipeg. Alexander married Elise Gingras, the Metis daughter of St. Joseph fur trader Antoine Gingras on 8 July 1875. The Kittson trading [post at St. Joseph, now Walhalla is shown above.

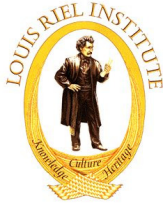
Alexander was educated at St. Boniface College and became a member of the Board of Education for Manitoba. Alexander was elected to the Manitoba Legislature in 1879 and served until 1883 representing the constituency of Ste. Agathe.

At the age of twenty-six, Kittson was elected in 1879 to the provincial legislature to represent the Métis community of Ste. Agathe. Here he gained the reputation of solidly representing the interests of the French and Métis population (Kittson himself was of



¹ Norman Wolfred Kittson (1814-1888) was an important fur trader, steamboat proprietor and railroad entrepreneur in the Pembina County and Red River area.

mixed Scottish and Métis descent); he was re-elected by acclamation. Kittson also owned a real estate company jointly with M. LaRivière, situated at the corner of Provencher and Taché. He was treasurer of the newly-formed Municipality of St. Boniface, treasurer of a colonization company, and on the executive of local cultural organizations. When he died suddenly of smallpox in 1883, the funeral was a major event, with the English papers describing Kittson as "an exemplary young man of steady habits, obliging and very much esteemed".²



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² "Maison Kittson." Winnipeg: Historical Buildings Committee, 25 August 1982: pg. 1.