

Alexis Goulet. (1811-1856)

By Todd Lamirande

Alexis Goulet was born around 1811-12, the descendant of a line of voyageurs. Goulet followed in their spirit, roaming western Canada to hunt and trade. He also guided sportsmen who ventured out west in their quest to acquire trophies. John Palliser's expedition was typical of this zeal to accumulate souvenirs from the Canadian wilderness. Horns, antlers, skins and "other such spoils" hunted by Palliser and his mates were soon shipped back to merry old England.¹ Indeed, in 1851 Alexis Goulet helped guide the Count de la Guiche, his two servants, John Ferguson and "Goulait's son" on to the plains for a hunting expedition.²



Alexis and Leonide Goulet (seated), photo from SBHS (CMSB 1205B)

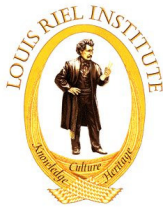
Alexis Goulet married the sixteen year old Josèphite Siveright on October 1, 1833. She was born in August 1817, the daughter of John Siveright and Josèphite or Louise Roussin, a mixed-blood woman.³

¹ Irene M. Spry (Editor), *The Papers of the Palliser Expedition 1857-1860*. Toronto: The Champlain Society, 1968: September 29, 1857, 153.

² H.B.C.A., B 235/a/15, Fort Garry Journal, June 26, 1851.

³ There is some confusion as to the name of Josèphite Siveright's mother. The 1875 scrip records give her name as Louise Roussin, S.H.St. B., 1875 Scrip, reel #C 14928, record # 752. However, her marriage to Alexis notes that John Siveright and Josephte (no last name given) were her parents (P.A.M., Registres des mariages de paroisse catholique de St-Boniface, 1825 à 1834). Josèphite's great-

Alexis and Josèphthe's children, through marriage, brought the Lagimodière, Genthon, Jérôme, McDougall, McDermot and Bannatyne families into the Goulet kinship network; the Goulets were well-connected with the political and economic elite of both the French and English communities. Their son Elzear Goulet was a martyr of the 1869 Resistance and was stoned to death and drowned by Wolesley's troops in 1870. Their son Leonide was a member of the Boundary Commission's 49th Rangers. Two sons would hold political positions. Maxime Goulet, the youngest child, would eventually become a member of the Manitoba legislature and a cabinet minister. Roger Goulet held various positions, including surveyor, customs agent, police magistrate and a member of the Council of Assiniboia. In fact, Goulet Street in St. Boniface is named after him.



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granddaughter, Marie-Thérèse Courchaine (better known as Manie Tobie) also gives contradictory evidence as to the name of the mother of Josèphthe Siveright. In a biography of her father she states it was Louise Roussin, while in a 1966 presentation she claims that the daughter of Louise, a Josèphthe or Josette, was John Sivewright's spouse (Marie-Thérèse Courchaine, "Biography of my Father Roger Goulet," S.H.St.B., Fonds Goulet-Courchaine, boîte #1, chemise #25, 12; Marie-Thérèse Courchaine, "Causerie sur la famille Goulet," S.H.St.B., Fonds Personalités, boîte #12, chemise #405, 3).