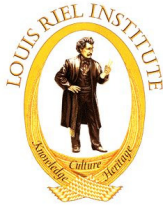


## Alfred Nault (b. 1901)



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Alfred “Fred” Nault was born on Oct. 22, 1901 in Montana, the son of Napoleon Nault (born 17 Sept. 1858) and Louise Bushie (the daughter of William Bushie and Suzanne Collins. Alfred was raised on Rocky Boy Reservation by his grandfather, William Bushie. Alfred was married to Helen Godin and then to Mary Carolyn Nomee.

Napoleon Nault Napoléon was born September 17, 1858, the son of André Nault Sr. and Anasathasie Landry and a cousin of Louis Riel. He was the brother of Andre “Nin Nin” Nault. He was married to Mélanie Vandal. They moved from Manitoba to St. Laurent on the South Saskatchewan in the late 1870s. He operated a trading post.

In 1883, Damase Carrière and Napoleon Nault traveled from Batoche to St. Boniface to attend the wedding of Riel’s sister Henriette to Jean Marie Poitras. At this time they discussed the Metis land claims problems in the Saskatchewan valley with Riel.

Napoleon was a strong supporter of Riel in 1869 and was active during the 1885 Resistance at Duck Lake, Tourond’s Coulee and Batoche. Nault was a member of Captain Isidore Dumont’s company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. He fought alongside Joseph Delorme at Duck Lake and also participated at Tourond’s Coulee. Dumont notes that he and Napoleon Nault set out at four in the morning to reconnoiter the enemy camp. During the battle at Batoche he led the fighters on the west side of the river that were responsible for taking the Northcote out of action.

After the fall of Batoche he fled with his wife Mélanie Vandal and four children to St. John’s, North Dakota with his brother Andre. Napoleon often acted as an English language interpreter for Gabriel Dumont. On May 22, 1889, the Fort Benton *River Press* interviewed Gabriel regarding his planned trip to the Paris Exposition and noted:

Mr. Napoleon Nault, a bright young Frenchman, who has been with him since 1885, accompanied Mr. Dumont to this city, and it was through him the *River Press* reporter conducted this interview.

Melanie died in 1898; records indicate that around 1900 Napoleon and the children were living at St. Malo, Manitoba. Nault then moved to Havre, Montana. After Melanie’s

death he married for a second time to Hattie Jarvis in 1908 at Glasgow, Montana. Between these two marriages Napoleon was married to Louise Boushie in Montana. Napoleon and Louise had two children; Alfred (Fred) Daniel Nault born 1901 in Dupuyer, Montana and Ordie (date of birth and place unknown). Napoleon died at age 77 in 1934 at Havre, Montana.

The Little Shell Band documentation gives us the following information:<sup>1</sup>

Fred Nault left a memoir *Fred Nault Montana Metis as Told by Himself*." In the first chapter of his memoir, titled "How some of us came to be Metis," Fred Nault recounts his family's oral history of the late 1870s and the early 1880s Metis settlements at St Peter's Mission and Lewistown. The St Peter's Mission was the first of the Rocky Mountain Front Range Metis communities. Descendants of the St Peter's colony became the nucleus of the Choteau and Augusta/Gilman Metis enclaves and later the Great Falls and Helena enclaves of Little Shell group. Lewistown was the kernel out of which came the Metis settlements at of the Havre-Wolf Point- Lewistown triangle.

Nault indicates that "a number of the people on the Rocky Boy's Reservation are descended from mixed bloods... Nault states that his father and his father's brother, Napoleon and Andre Nault took part in the second Riel Resistance in 1885.

Nault, however, lived with and was raised by his maternal grandfather, William Boushie (from the Michif pronunciation of Boucher), one of the first permanent Montana Metis settlers. He says:" William Boushie was Cree-French. He moved from Canada to Red Lake, Minnesota, in the late 1870s. From there he led a group of people up the Missouri River. They followed the Missouri because the buffalo were awfully scarce. They lived mostly on elk and deer. Some of them traveled in those two-wheeled carts called Red River carts. Others carried their good on horse travois. According to what my grandfather told me many times they were a large group — mostly mixed bloods—about 10 camps of them." Nault's statement that Boushie had lived at Red Lake indicates that he was affiliated with the Pembina Metis and Chippewa community.

Nault recounts that the Boushie group split from a group that remained with Riel, each settling in a different area. "Shortly after the Boushie party's arrival the party split into two parties. Those remaining with Boushie went to the Snowy Mountains (near Lewistown) to get work. The Riel group continued up the Missouri to Cascade, then to St Peter's Mission. The party that went to the Snowy Mountains, their descendants live at Lewistown. In fact, Lewistown was founded by those Metis. They figured that they did not belong to the

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<sup>1</sup> "Supplemental Evidence and Analsis in Support of Federal Acknowledgment of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana." Compiled by: Dr Robert J. Franklin, Professor (Little Shell member) Dr. Pamela A. Bunte, Professor (Little Shell member) Dept of Anthropology California State Univ. Submitted on Dec 12, 1994. SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON THE LITTLE SHELL CHIPPEWA TRIBE'S FEDERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL CHRONOLOGY OF DOCUMENTS, 1870-1994.

Riel group. They went under the name of the Oulette (Ouellette) Band. They had gone under Frank Ouellette in North Dakota on the way here. A "Francois Ouellette" was one of the signatories to the 1880 Riel petition to General Miles. Ben Kline indicated that Frank Ouellette was with Pierre Berger's group.

At Dupuyer, Montana William Bouchie owned the Rigby place up at the mountains. It was once called "Little Chicago" because there were so many tents and little buildings there. This was a predominately Metis settlement in the late 1800s.