

## **Montour, Abraham Sr. (b. 1832)**

One of the early meetings to plan the Métis Resistance on the South Saskatchewan took place at the home of Abraham Montour. The initial plans to deal with the government and send messengers to get Louis Riel to return from Montana were made at a meeting held at Abraham Montour's home on March 22, 1884.

On March 22, 1884, thirty Métis men gathered for a secret meeting to discuss their grievances against the Canadian government and to strategize on how they might achieve solution to their grievances. They all signed a document committing to keep this meeting held at Abraham Montour's house a secret. The initial plan to deal with the government was to send messengers to get Louis Riel to return from Montana. The participants signed an oath of secrecy.

Abraham was born at Pembina, the son of Robert Bonhomme Montour and Josephte Spence. He and his wife were members of the Turtle Mountain Band and received annuity payments in 1870.<sup>1</sup> In 1873, Abraham was issued Scrip # 274 (160 acres) under the Red Lake and Pembina Treaty. He married Marie Pagé. They spent many years on the plains as buffalo hunters. The family had a homestead entry at Tp. 44, Range 2, W 3. He traded out of a store located on Section 19 from 1875 to 1879. In 1883, the government sold their land out from under them to an Ontario investor. One of the early meetings (March 22, 1884) to plan the Métis Resistance took place at their home.

Children of Abraham Montour and Marie Pagé:

- Victoria.
- Abraham, born November 7, 1855, married Lucie Parenteau, then married Adele ?
- Marie, born December 12, 1857, married Gregoire Falcon.
- Jean-Baptiste, born March 16, 1860 at Pembina, married Christine Parenteau.
- Julienne, born circa 1864, died May 1872.
- Justine, born 1865, married Patrice Joseph Fleury.
- Clemence, born February 23, 1868, married Joseph Delorme.
- Cecile, born December 7, 1872 at Duck Lake, married Henry Andre McDougall.
- Daniel, born May 1875 at Duck Lake, died September 1891.
- Isidore, born November 24, 1877 at Duck Lake.
- Alexandrine, born August 15, 1880 at Duck Lake.

André Nault Jr. and Abraham Montour were charged with treason-felony for their part in events at Frog Lake and Frenchman's Butte, however, their hearing was postponed for lack of witnesses and the case was later dropped. Abraham lived at the St. Laurent Settlement River Lot 20, on the west side of the river. His sons, Abraham Jr. and Jean Baptiste were also active in the Resistance at the battle of Batoche and his two nephews were killed during the fighting at Duck Lake. After 1885, he moved to Selby Junction, Montana. Finally, in 1899 he sold his last property in the Batoche area to an American rancher for one dollar. He eventually settled on a ranch near Medicine Hat.

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<sup>1</sup> Gail Morin. *Turtle Mountain Chippewa, Pembina Band; Annuity Payments and Census*. Quinton Publications, n.d. p. 65.

Diane Payment gives the following biography:

Coming from Pembina, North Dakota, via St. François Xavier, Abraham Montour arrived in Saskatchewan around 1871. He settled in Batoche on the west bank in 1877. His brother Pascal lived next to him. He was the son of “Bonhomme” Montour and a descendent of Nicholas Montour, a “peddler” who had arrived on the South Saskatchewan at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>2</sup>

Montour, Abraham; address: Batoche; born: 1832 at Red River; father: Bonhomme Montour (Métis); mother: Marguerite Spence (Métis); married: 1853 at Pembina River to Marie Pagé; children living: Abraham, Marie, Jean-Baptiste, Justine, Clemence, Cecile, Daniel, Isidore and Alexandrine; children deceased: Victoire and Julienne; scrip for \$160.00; claim no. 1160.

Pagé, Marie; address: Batoche; born: 1835 at Red Deer; father: Joseph Pagé (French Canadian); mother: Agathe Letendre (Métis); married: 1853 at Pembina to Abraham Montour Sr.; children living: 9; children deceased: 2; scrip for \$160.00; claim no. 1150.

Montour, Clemence; address: Batoche; born: 23 February, 1868 at Cheyenne River; father: Abraham Montour Sr. (Métis); mother: Marie Pagé (Métis); scrip for \$240.00; claim no. 1157.

Montour, Justine; address: Batoche P.O. [Post Office]; born: 1865 at Souris River; father: Abraham Montour Sr. (Métis); mother: Marie Pagé (Métis); married: September, 1886 at St. Laurent to Patrice Fleury; scrip for \$240.00; claim no. 1159.

Montour, Marie; address: Batoche P.O. [Post Office] born: 1857 at Tete a la Biche; father: Abraham Montour Sr. (Métis); mother: Marie Pagé (Métis); married: 1880 at St. Laurent to Gregoire Falcon; children living: Marie Louise and Jean Baptiste; children deceased: Pierre; scrip for \$240.00; claim no. 1158.



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<sup>2</sup> Diane Payment, 1990: 240.