

## **Angelique “Omanukwe” Bottineau. (1838-1903)**

Angelique “Omanukwe” Bottineau was born October 8, 1838 at St. Francois Xavier, the daughter of Joseph Bottineau (b. 1815) and Angelique Cardinal (b. 1816). Her paternal grandparents were Margaret Mah Je Gwoz Since or Ah-dik-Songab (Clear Sky)<sup>1</sup>, and a French-Canadian hunter grandfather, Charles Joseph Bottineau.<sup>2</sup> In 1787, Charles Joseph Bottineau came into the Northwest Territory Chippewa country with other French fur traders. Between 1803-1808, Charles Sr. was a voyageur and hunter with Alexander Henry in the Pembina area.

On June 15, 1857 at Pembina Angelique married Antoine Ouellette, also known as Antoine Ratte, Ellette or Walette. He was born on December 29, 1834 at St. Francois Xavier, the son of Joseph Ouellette (b. 1799) and Therese Elizabeth Daniels *dite* Houle. Joseph was the son of Joseph Ouellette Sr. (b.1765) and Angelique (Assiniboine). Theresa Houle (b. 1805) was the daughter of Antoine Houle (b. 1781) and Josephte Lauzon.

Angelique’s sisters were married to Antoine’s brothers. Marie Bottineau, born in 1834 married Isidore Ouellette, born 1830. Josephte Bottineau, born in 1836 married Francois Ouellette born 1832.

Antoine and Angelique had the following children:

- Joseph, b. January 29, 1859.
- Rose, b. April 30, 1861. She married Norman Marion.
- Moise, b. July 2, 1863 at Lewistown. He married Elise Isabella Dumont.
- Celina, b.c. 1865.
- Francois “Frank”, b. October 14, 1868 at Devil’s Lake. He married Marie Alexina Welsh (Wells)
- Marie Elise, b. c. 1870 at Wood Mountain.
- Marie Philomene, b. February 25, 1872 at Lebret. She married John Wills.
- Joseph Jean Marie, b. February 4, 1874 at Wood Mountain. He died January 1875.
- Albert, b. January 14, 1876 at Wood Mountain. He died in 1877 at Fort Walsh.
- Jean Baptiste, b. February 2, 1878 at Cypress Hills.
- Marie Elizabeth, b. March 19, 1880 at Lewistown. She married Joseph Dominique Ducharme.
- Odilon, b. 1884. He married Eliza Azure.

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<sup>1</sup> Also shown as Margaret Son gabo ki che ta, the sister of Chief Red Bear (Mis-co-muk-quoh). Her father (Delonais) was a Dakota captured by the Chippewa and her mother was an unknown Chippewa woman. Among those who signed the Pembina and Red Lake Chippewa Old Crossing Treaty of 1863 were her brother Red Bear, Chief of the Pembina, her son-in-law Joseph Montreuille, Warrior of the Pembina (married to their daughter Isabella or Mijigisi) and their son Pierre Bottineau.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Joseph Bottineau dit Mendemoya (1776-1824) married Margaret in 1813, her third husband, he was the son of Pierre Bottineau (1730-1790) and Marie-Angelique Fournaise dit Laboucane.

Antoine was an independent Metis trader operating back and forth to St. Paul in the Minnesota Territory and was heavily involved in the Metis-Dakota/Lakota trade. With the advent of the North West Mounted Police he became a scout and guide for them. When Sitting Bull came up to Wood Mountain in 1870 he was reliant upon trade with Antoine Ouellette and Louis Legare who was working for Ouellette out of Willow Bunch (Talle de Saules) as well as Joseph McKay. Joseph McKay was trading out of Fort Ellice and Baptiste Bourassa who was working for him was relieved of their whole trading outfit by the Sioux near the Milk River. Isaac Cowie reported that Antoine was trading liquor to the Indians at Wood Mountain, Pinto Horse Butte and Eagle Quills.<sup>3</sup>

In 1877, tourists Percy Heber and his wife hired Antoine “Wallett” as their scout and guide.<sup>4</sup> They had three carts four men including Antoine and thirteen horses. They describe the French speaking Metis as Antoine their guide, George, a cook, and Villeneuve, plus an English speaking Sioux.

The first permanent settlers in Spring Creek, what is now Lewistown, Montana were the Metis. In 1879 three bands comprising of about forty families came in their Red River Carts. A few of the names that became very familiar to all were Berger, Wells, Laverdure, Ouellette, and Ben Kline who down through the years was looked upon as their spokesman and leader. They immediately filed on homesteads. The Ouellette addition to the city, for example, located near the Garfield School, and known as “Buckskin Flats,” was Antoine Ouellette’s original homestead.

In 1878, Antoine and other Metis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Metis reserve of land. His father, Joseph Sr., and brothers, Joseph Jr. and Jean Baptiste also signed this petition. This petition requested a re-opening of the buffalo hunt between November 14<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup> each year and the granting of Metis “reserve” land (A strip of land 150 miles long along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border). This strip was to be fifty miles from south to north. His brother Jean Baptiste Ouellette also signed this petition.

Antoine and his brother Moise also signed the petition for a Metis reserve in Montana, sent by Louis Riel to General Nelson A. Miles on August 6, 1880.

Angelique died on September 14, 1903 at Willow Bunch.

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<sup>3</sup> Isaac Cowie. *The Company of Adventurers*. Toronto: William Briggs, 1913: 433.

<sup>4</sup> Percy Heber, *Journal of two Excursions in the Brittiish North West Territory of North America, 1877, 1888*. Market Drayton, England: Bennion & Horne, 1879: 4. They retained Antoine through James McKay at Silver Heights.



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