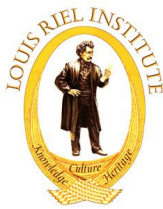


Charles Demontigny Jr.. (b. 1845)

Charles Demontigny although born at St. Francois Xavier was a Turtle Mountain Band member, the son of Charles Demontigny Sr. and Marie Desjarlais. He first was married to Nancy Thorne then to Maria Branconnier. His father, Charles Sr. had worked for Antoine Desjarlais at Fort Desjarlais in the Souris River Valley in the 1840-50s. Charles and Nancy Demontigny had eight children. In 1878, Charles and other Metis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Metis reserve of land.¹

They were on of the Metis families arrested at Fort Belknap for hunting in Montana. November 24, 1878: Cypress Mountains, Patrice Breland writes:

The news here, although not very good, because the Buffalos (bison) are very scarce in the neighbourhood, they are plentiful on the other side of the line along the Milk River, but there is great inconvenience to go and hunt in that direction because the Americans defend it, they have made prisoners. Antoine Brillant the elder, Peter Lapierre, Alexander Brillant, Pierre Labruler, Ambroise Chartrant, Charles Demontigny and Joseph Azure, they have all been made prisoners with their families. They were arrested at Fort Belknap, they have been released after 7 or 8 days after, without being fined provided they don't return and tell folks that other prisoners will be put in gaol for two years and their horses and carts taken. I have learned that the Teton (Sioux) go hunting on the other side of the line numbering 300 men. The Teton are not numerous here. They are about 50 lodges and the Sante about 30 lodges, and the remainder of the Teton with Sitting Bull are at the Mud house on White River (Utah), I have learned that they are about 1,000 lodges. I think I will go very soon to trade with these people...



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¹ The petition requested a re-opening of the buffalo hunt between November 14th and February 15th 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.