

Chief Toussaint Salois. (1841-1935)

Toussaint was, born Nov 1, 1841 at Lac St. Anne, the son of Joseph Abraham Salois and Suzanne Bouvette. He married Helene “Salina (Lena)” Breland c.1870, the daughter of Alexandre Duboishue Breland and Emilie Wells. She was born January 1850 at St. Francois Xavier and died in Montana.

Toussaint Salois came from Canada in 1885 where he had been a kind of “lieutenant” with Riel. He was forced to move out of Canada after the Rebellion. He settled along Dupuyer Creek (Montana), where he raised many horses and cattle. As far as anyone knows, he never returned to Canada. Ila’s grandmother (Lena Breland, a Red River Metis name) was a schoolteacher--tall, light skin and light curly hair -- she never spoke any Cree until she married Toussaint. They had quite a family: Rose, Salomon (Ila’s father), Abe, Gabe, John, George, Frank, Beatrice, Margaret (Agee), Francis, Tony, and Joe. All of the children homesteaded along Dupuyer Creek then sold out to Toussaint. Toussaint's brother, Sam, went back to Canada where he stayed. Toussaint Salois died in 1935. He lived in Dupuyer until he was 92 when he moved up to Salomon's place on Birch Creek [the southern edge of the Blackfeet Reservation]. He lived there just a month before he died. Ila's mother was Maggie Bousha. Grandfather Bousha [William Bouchie; see Fred Nault's account of his grandfather above] 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]."¹

Shatraw² wrote that, “At least once every year Chief Salois and his large family would come by on their hunting and berrying trips.” When the young Shatraw visited Salois's temporary camp, he saw the “old chief and two younger men,” but said that “there was no sign of the women and children” (Shatraw 1970, 181-182). Shatraw did not provide enough evidence to identify “families.” The petitioner's researchers assert that Shatraw's reference to “Chief Salois” was “almost certainly a reference to Toussaint” Salois.³

Family Scrip Records:

Salois, Helene or Lena; address: Depuyer, Montana; born: 8 Jan., 1850 at St. Francois; Xavier; father: Alexander Berland (Métis); mother: Emelie Wells (Métis); married: 1869 at St. Albert to Toussaint; Salois; scrip cert.: form E, no. 3291; claim no. 1304

Salois, Abraham; address: Montana; born: 1875 at Hand Hills; father: Toussaint Salois (Métis); mother: Helene Breland (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 820; claim no. 1344

¹ Dupuyer Centennial Committee, *By Gone Days and Modern Ways*, Havre Griggs Printing Committee, 1977: 152. Based on interviews of Toussaint Salois’ granddaughter, Ila Agee, and of Mabel Pepion Salois, a Blackfeet member who married a son of Gabriel Salois, Toussaint's brother and Betsy McGillis.

² Milton Shawtraw, *Thrashin’ Time*. Palo Alto, CA: American West Publishing, n.d.

³ Robert Franklin and Pamela Bunte, Supplemental Evidence and Analysis in Support of Federal Acknowledgement of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, Dec. 12, 1994: 118.

Salois, Beatrice; address: Depuyer, Montana; born: Winter, 1884 at Battle River; father: Toussaint Salois (Métis); mother: Lena Berland (Métis); scrip Issued for 240 acres; file ref. 762818; claim no. 1334

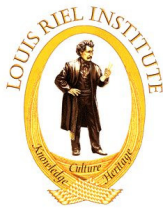
Salois, Francois; address: Depuyer, Montana; born: 1879 at Elk River; father: Toussaint Salois (Métis); mother: Lina Berland (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 818; claim no. 1336

Salois, Gabriel; address: Depuyer; born: 1873 at Battle River; father: Toussaint Salois (Métis); mother: Lina Berland (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 884; claim no. 1360

Salois, John; address: Depuyer, Montana; born: 16 July, 1880 at Battle River; father: Toussaint Salois (Métis); mother: Lena Berland (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 886; claim no. 1331

Salois, Laurent; address: Depuyer; born: 17 Jan., 1877 at Battle River, Alberta; father: Toussaint Salois (Métis); mother: Helene Berland (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 816; claim no. 1329

Salois, Solomon; address: Depuyer Creek, Montana; born: Sept., 1871 near Edmonton; father: Toussaint Salois (Métis); mother: Helene Breland (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 888; claim no. 1335



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