

Damase Carrière.¹ (1851-1885)

Damase was born in 1851 at St. Vital, the son of Elie Carrière² and Elmire Landry. On February 10, 1875, he married Marie-Pélagie Parenteau of St. Laurent, the daughter of Jean Baptiste Parenteau and Pélagie Dumont. They had settled at St. Laurent on the South Saskatchewan in 1877. They had five children. In 1883, 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.

Both Napoleon and Damase Carrière signed Gabriel Dumont's petition on Metis land claims from St. Antoine de Padoue on September 4, 1882. Damase was part of the secret meeting on March 22, 1884 with 30 other Metis to discuss coordinated action on their land claims with the white settlers and English Metis. Damase was a member of Riel's Council (Exovedate) at Batoche during the 1885 Resistance. His name appears as #124 on Philippe Garnot's list of Resistance participants.

Elie Dumont gives the following account of the fight at Tourond's Coulee:

They were surrounded on all sides except for the one facing Tourond's house for the enemy could not go that way without coming in full sight. Before sunset, Elie hears a discharge; he knows that the shot did not come from a carbine but from a shotgun. He says to Damase Carrière: "It must be our people who have come to help us."

They soon see them coming. They arrive at a gallop. The police are already fleeing by companies. In the coulee and at a short distance from the bluff, Edouard finds, in addition to a white mare belonging to the police, a beautiful saddle, a saber, and some bags containing soap, a towel, a razor, and rolls of white cotton. He keeps the saber only and gives the mare to Elie who returns to Batoche on it.

"I had lost my horse, but now I have a better one," he said. "This animal is full of spirit, healthy, and seems to have been well fed with oats." They look for guns abandoned by the police along the coulee; they collect 32 rifles.³

Damase fought in the 1885 battle at Batoche. On the last day of battle, after receiving a broken leg, the English tied a cord about his neck and dragged him behind a horse until he was dead.

Emmanuel Champagne reports these events:

While part of the English troops descended by Charles Thomas's place another group came straight down on Batoche's store. There, the two Tourond's, Damase Carrière, and Andre Letendré were killed. The English had come upon the Touronds

¹ A signator of Gabriel Dumont's petition (dated St. Antoine de Padoue, 4th September, 1882) to the Prime Minister for a survey and land grants.

² Elie Carriere was employed as a Middleman by the HBC between 1866 and 1867. Elie had HBC lots 319, 326 and 925 at Red River (Register B).

³ SHM, 30-35.

and the others by stealing through the woods and emerging upon them unexpectedly. The latter were ten yards away when shot and it was like shooting a rabbit in its legs. Damase Carrière was mistaken for Riel. The English tied a rope around his neck and dragged him. Trottier had only been wounded; his body was found at Caron's.⁴

The women found him the next day with his hands still clenched around the rope that strangled him. "Les femmes ont cherché les cadavres. En arrivant à Damase Carrière, elles trouvent une ficille au cou; voyaient la trace où traîné du buisson, au bord de la prairie."⁵

Emmanuel Champagne said that the troops did this because they had mistaken Damase for Louis Riel. His wife, Marie-Pelagie, later married Maxime Dubois, another Resistance fighter.

Metis scrip claims of the children of Damase Carrière and Marie Pelagie Parenteau (b. 30 Aug. 1856 St. Norbert d/o Baptiste Parenteau and Pelagie Dumont)

1. D-11-8-c, Vol. 1340, C-14957

CARRIERE, Alfred, address: Crooked Lake, Sask, claim 656, born 10 Aug., 1879 at St. Laurent

Father: Damase CARRIERE (Deceased Metis), mother: Pelagie PARENTEAU (Metis)

Scrip cert. form C., no. 1011, for \$240

2. D-11-8-c, Vol. 1340, C-14957

CARRIERE, Damase, address: Kinistino, Sask., claim 409, born 10 Sept., 1881 at Batoche

Father: Damase CARRIERE (Dec'd Metis), Mother: Pelagie PARENTEAU (Metis)

Scrip Cert: Form C., no. 593

3. D-11-8-c, Vol. 1340, C-14957

CARRIERE, Emilie, address: Kinistino, Sask, claim 541, born Oct. 1883 St. Laurent

Father: Demase CARRIERE (Metis), Mother: Pelagie PARENTEAU (Metis)

Scrip cert. form C., no. 819 for \$240

4. D-11-8-c, Vol 1350, C-14974

GROUETTE, Elenore, address: St. Pierre, MB, claim 1527, born 30 July, 1877 at St. Vital, MB

Father: Damase CARRIERE, Mother: Marie Pelagie PARENTEAU

Married 1896 at St. Pierre to Joseph GROUETTE

File ref. 85635A on 76903 A

⁴ SHM 56-57.

⁵ Cloutier, vol. 1, 5, 138. "The women looked for the bodies. When they came to Damase Carrière, they found him with a cord around the neck; they could see the mark where he was dragged into the bush, on the side of the prairie." Translation by Diane Payment.

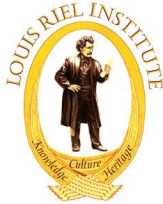
5. D-11-8-c, Vol 1361, C-14993

NAULT, Mathilde, address: St. Vital, MB, born 22 November, 1875 Batoche

Father: Damase CARRIERE, Mother: Marie Pelagie PARENTEAU

married 1893 St. Pierre, MB to Alexander NAULT

Scrip cert. form E., no. 3386, claim 1441



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Coordinator of Metis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute