

François “Ka-Ka-Keese” Lafontaine (b. 1847)

François signed the 1876 petition from the Metis of Fort Walsh to join Treaty Four. In 1878, François and other Metis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Metis reserve of land.¹

François “Ka-Ka-Keese” Lafontaine was born in 1847, the son of Jean Baptiste Lafontaine and Françoise Martin. He was step-brother to Louis “Mar-yarm-mons” Lafontaine² who also signed the Cypress Hills Petition for a Metis Reserve. He married Elise Hughes the daughter of Samuel Hughes and Marguerite Desjarlais in 1868 at St. Francois Xavier. This buffalo hunting family had children born across the prairies at Qu’Appelle, Cypress Hills, Teton River, Touchwood Hills and Lebret. François initially took treaty with Muscowequan Band but withdrew in 1886.



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¹ Requesting 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.

² In the 1880s when the buffalo had disappeared, Louis attended the Crooked Lake Agency and tried to get rations with the other Metis and Chippewa-Cree at Cowessess Reserve but was told that he did not belong.

In 1885 he was living at Batoche. He was a member of Captain Ambroise Champagne’s company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance at Batoche. After the fighting at Batoche the family moved to Turtle Mountain Reservation.² Louis had three children with Emelie Desjarlais. He died there on April 11, 1939. His grandson, Louis F. Lafontaine served on the Turtle Mountain Tribal Council from 1959 to 1961.