

## **George and Mary Trottier *dit* Trotchie**

By Jackie Trotchie (Trottier)

### **George Edward Trottier (b. 1905)**

Georges father was Andre Trottier dit Trotchie (b. 1873), the son of Charles Trottier (b. 1839) and Ursule Laframboise. Charles was the son of Andre Trottier (b. 1784)<sup>1</sup> and Marguerite Paquette. Georges mother was Susan Pauline Wallace. Susan was born at Duck Lake in 1879, the daughter of Frank Wallace and Madeleine Savoy.

Georges grandfather, Charles Trottier and his brothers Antoine (b. 1834) and Andre (b. 1816), all signed the 1878 petition of the Metis hunting band at Cypress Hills which requested a Metis reserve.

Charles Trottier, his brother Michel and his sons, Isidore (b. 1863) and Jean Baptiste (b. 1864) were all Resistance fighters in the 1885 Northwest Metis Resistance.

George married Mary Louise Briere, the daughter of Gregoire Bruyere (b. 1862)<sup>2</sup> and Marie Alphonsine Allary<sup>3</sup>, the daughter of Andre Allary and Josephte McGillis, on April 10, 1911 at Whitewater, Montana. Marie Louise Bruyere's grandfather Jean Baptiste Bryuere (b. 1844) and brothers Louison (b. 1842), Jeremie (b. 1854), and Cleophas (b. 1856) all signed the 1878 petition of the Metis hunting band at Cypress Hills which requested a re-opening of the bison hunt between November 14<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup> each year and the granting of a Metis "reserve." They requested a 150-mile strip of land along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border in Manitoba and thence west. This strip was to be fifty miles wide from north to south.

Somewhere between Havre, Montana, Maple Creek, or Round Prairie, Saskatchewan and around Dec. 2, 1905 George Trottier aka Trotchie was born to Andrew Trottier and Susie Pauline Wallace. No one knew for certain what side of the border they were on nor which prairie and that's how George ended up with two birth certificates: one in the US and one in Canada. Neither does anyone know how Trottier was changed to Trotchie, however, George believed the post master changed it in the US census for Choteau County, his grandfather Charles Trottier of the Riel Resistance is listed as "Trouchia" suggesting the census takers couldn't pronounce or spell French names.

After returning to Montana, Andrew and George moved into the old homestead just north of Fort Benton where George went to school. He often said he had to walk five

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<sup>1</sup> Andre Trottier (b. 1784) and his brother Joseph (b. 1790) were both active with Cuthbert Grant in the Battle of Seven Oaks. His son, also Andre Trottier (b. 1816), was active in the Battle of the Grand Coteau on July 12 to 15, 1851.

<sup>2</sup> Gregoire was the son of Jean Baptiste Bruyere (b.1844) and Marie Allary the daughter of Michel Allary and Marie Paquin. Jean was the son of Jean Baptiste Bruyere Sr. (b. 1811) and Angelique Guilbault.

<sup>3</sup> Her first mate was John LaMere who was the one that taught my dad to shear, tag, etc. And later she married my grandfather who was Gregoire Bruyere.

miles to get there and he was right. He completed the third grade before moving on to Chinook, Montana, where years later he met his future father-in-law Gregoire Bruyere aka Gregory Briere who taught him to herd, shear and tag sheep which he became proficient at despite a crippled hand and shear the size of an electric razor.



Sheepshearers taking a break; north of Lohman, Montana, 1928: L-R  
Sitting in the far back is Artie Morris (sheep man). Standing: Joe Emily, Joe LaMere,  
Ed LaMere, John LaMere, Louis Parsion and his two sons. Seated: Martin Fisher, Bill Saddler  
and George Trotchie (Captain).

George ended up marrying Gregory's daughter Mary Louise in 1929 at the urging of her mother Mary Alphonsine Allery who believed George would always be a good provider and he was. Their honeymoon home was an old sheep wagon but later the couple moved to Chinook where all but one of their nine children were born. When the eldest boy Albert passed the family moved to Helena where they remained until their children were grown.

### **Custom Contractor**

George was a custom contractor who was always “rustling” up work for his family and crew. Men like Joe Briere, Alex Allery, Johnny Caplette, and Louie Trotchie were his core crew who worked on most of the jobs George found picking spuds, shearing, tagging and trapping but in the summer, his family put up the hay until they grew up and moved on. All of George's core crew passed away before him but he was remembered by their families because of his generosity. George was known to gather up all the “culls” in the spud fields, hunt, fish and buy veggies from the Hutterites then load his pick-up and say to his wife: “Gotta go feed the elders.”

### **Mary Bruyere Trotchie. (1911-1982):**

Metis fiddler Mary Bruyere (Briere) was born at Whitewater, Montana, the daughter of Gregoire Bruyere and Alphonsine Mary Allary. Her father was born in 1872 at St. Francois Xavier and her mother Alphonsine, the daughter of Andre Allary and Josephite McGillis dit Hamelin, was born in June 1877 at Wild Horse Lake. Mary married George

Edward Trotchie the son of Andre Trottier and Susie Wallace; he was a descendant of Charles Trottier who led the Metis fighters from Prairie Ronde in the 1885 Metis Resistance at Batoche. He was also a descendant of Ursule Lafromboise Trottier.

Mary showed an interest in fiddling from a young age and was taught by her father and uncles, Alec and Sam Allery. She also listened to Canadian Metis fiddlers, Andy Desjarlis and Ned Landry on the radio. She toured as a performer with the Cecil Nichols' Hawaiian Show where she was featured as a dancer and as the "Ukulele Queen." Mary began playing the fiddle at the age of four. Because her hands were too small to get around the neck of the fiddle she taped small sticks on the end of each finger and thus she could play. Mary began competing in fiddle contests in the 1950s and took many honours over the next thirty years, such as the Northwest Regional Fiddle Championship in 1969 (first place, Women's Division), the National Fiddle Contest in 1969 (first place, Women's Division). With this later win she was elected to the Fiddler's Hall of Fame in Weiser, Idaho.



This was taken in Saskatoon during the Batoche Celebration. George Trottier is in the backseat behind Clarence Trotchie.






Mary, George and their children; standing: Pauline, Alice, Joseph, Florence, and Jackie; seated: Clara, Mary Louise, George, Deanna, and Georgia

**THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN NATION  
GOVERNMENT**

OCT 20 1972

**This identification card indicates that**



**Mr. George Edward Trottler**

is a member of the Little shell bend tribe Chippewa

Date and year of birth born December 2, in 1905

The County which he reside Lewis & clark

The Province of Montana State The Country of U.S.A.

**File**  
No. 2152

**HEAD QUARTERS OFFICE: LORETTEVILLE**  
Tel. 79  
**Quebec County, P. Q. (Canada)**

George's North American Indian Nation Card, used to cross the USA/Canada border. This card was evidently printed by the Huron-Wendat whose reserve at Loretteville is just north of Quebec City. Known as the Wyandot, in the USA there are three federally recognized Wyandot tribes: the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma, the Wyandot Nation of Kansas, and the Wyandot Nation of Anderdon, Michigan.



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