

George Ward: Alberta Buffalo Hunter (b. 1810)

George Ward was the son of John Ward a HBC labourer in 1795. He married Elizabeth "Betsy" Turcotte, the daughter of a Turcotte and Kaganawab on February 23, 1852 at Fort des Prairies. They had 14 children born at Edmonton House and St. Albert. At one point they lived to the west in the Jasper Valley:

In Colin Fraser's time, Eustace Decoigne, James Findlay, **George Ward**, Andre Chalifoux, and several Desjarlais lived in the (*Jasper*) valley. All of them had moved west, keeping pace with the extensions of the fur trade. The Desjarlais were close relatives to Antoine Desjarlais." (Quote from "Overland by the Yellowhead" by James MacGregor.)

Some of the leaders of the Metis Settlement at Lac Ste Anne included Abraham Salois, Louis Paul, Alex Nault, George Ward, one of the Hamlins, a Loyer, Joe Gray and Gabtiel Dumont; the elder. Rather than being settlement leaders in the traditional European sense, these are likely the leaders of the bison (buffalo) hunt. They had cultivated little patches but they produced very little.

François Gabriel Dumont, Abraham Salois (the brother-in-law of Francois Dumont), George Ward, and James Richards were the great buffalo hunters of Alberta. Dumont was a leader of the Metis operating out of the Edmonton area and Boss Hill and Tail Creek. Francois Dumont was the person who traveled to Winnipeg to bring the first priest back to establish a mission at St. Albert.



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