

## **Henry Fisher. (1800-1871)**

Henry was born in Prairie du Chien, his mother was Madeleine Gauthier de Verville (b. 1779) the great-granddaughter of an Ottawa chief. His father Henry Munroe Fisher (b. 1775) was an American Fur company agent. Around 1810, Henry M. Fisher relocated to Prairie du Chien (Wisconsin) where he became a prosperous landowner and trader. As a result of the British American war of 1812-14, he went north to Red River (Pembina area) with his eldest sons, Alexander (b. 1802) and Henry, and a nephew, Charles Brisebois. Henry Jr. remained in the Red River area, first working as a clerk for the NWC<sup>1</sup> and then as an employee of the HBC and also as a free trader. He became one of the few Métis to achieve the rank of a commissioned officer in the HBC. Fisher and his father both served with the British in the War of 1812 and Henry Jr. joined the North West Company in 1816.

Henry Fisher Jr. had many wives, contrary to the advice of his uncle, Chief Trader Alexander Fisher. It is not clear how many wives he had, but it's between four and seven. He married Marie Anne Cayole and had son John Fisher (b. 1827, Rocky Mountain House) and daughter Magdeleine (b. 1831, Rocky Mountain House). He married Suzanne Patenaude in 1833 at Peigan Post (Bow River). Henry married Marguerite Laframboise (b. 1805),<sup>2</sup> the daughter of Joseph Laframboise and Josephte (Assiniboine). Their son Alexander Fisher was born in 1819; he married Susan Desjarlais at Winnipeg in 1839. Their daughter La Louise Fisher was born at Fort Ellice. Henry married Louise Berger in 1841, a son Duncan was born in 1841, and son Henry Jr. born 1845. He then married Marguerite Parenteau in 1859 and divorced in 1864. They had a son, Leon born in 1860.

After the amalgamation of the NWC and HBC in 1821 he was placed in charge of Fort Ellice in 1844. He was promoted to Chief Trader at Red River District in 1851. He then transferred to the English River District in 1853. He retired to Red River in 1854 and was appointed to the Council of Assiniboia in 1857.



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

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<sup>1</sup> 1817-1821 employed by North West Company as apprentice clerk, Fort des Prairies District (Saskatchewan) (HBC Archives F.4/32a p.379)

<sup>2</sup> Marguerite Laframboise was born 1805 in NWT; died 20 November 1880 in Duck Lake, Saskatchewan; married (1) Henry Munro Fisher, Jr. Abt. 1820; born Abt. 1800 in Prairie du Chien; died November 18, 1871 in St. Boniface, Manitoba; She married Louis Baptiste Sansregret, then married Jean-Baptiste Dumont, Jr. on 14 April 1834 in St. Boniface, Manitoba; born 1 February 1805 in NWT.