

James “Tshem” Boucher. (b. circa 1818)

James Boucher, born circa 1818, at Stuart Lake, B.C., was the eldest son of Jean Baptiste Waccan and Nancy McDougall. Jean Baptiste Boucher *dit* Waccan (b. 1789) Like his father, he was an interpreter for the Hudson’s Bay Company at Fort Saint James on Stuart Lake and was employed by the HBC in New Caledonia from 1822 until his death in 1849.

James went to Oregon with the northern brigade and was living at the Saint Paul mission on 24 July 1848, when he married a Métis woman at the by the name of Rosalie Plouffe. His wife, daughter of fur trader Antoine Plouffe and his “Country Wife” Angélique Slawa, a Chaudière (Carrier) woman,

James worked for the HBC from 1852 to 1844. James moved in 1842 to settle in the Willamette Valley, tributary to the Columbia opposite Fort Vancouver. He married “Tittnan” or “Marie,” a Carrier Indian woman, by whom he had numerous children, at least five of whom were daughters: Sophie, Philomena, Jenny (Jeannie), Marguerite, and Angell. James and Marie’s eldest daughter, Sophie, born in 1857, married in 1875 the mixed-ancestry Pierre Roi, a HBC servant. Pierre Roi, Jr. was the son of Sorel-born, HBC employee (1840-53) Pierre Roi and likely a Carrier woman (he began working in New Caledonia as a twenty one year old).

James and Marie’s second daughter, Philomene, born in 1859, married 29 year old Thomas Hamilton, an Orkney-man, in 1875 and had been widowed in 1881 when she was living with her parents, and then, in 1886, married Red River-born John William Flett, son of John and Ellen Flett.

A third daughter, Jenny (Jeannie) Boucher, married Francois Roi, brother of Pierre, in 1882. A fourth daughter, Marguerite, born in 1863, married Red River-born Antoine Lefrenière, son of Antoine Lefrenière and Marguerite Grant in 1877. Another daughter, Angell, born in 1869, was living at home in 1881.

After his father’s death, he was the liaison between the northern traders and the Indians, being of special assistance to chief trader Manson on many occasions. James Boucher was still living in June 1907. He was also known as Jim or “Tshem.”



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