

## Dumont, Jean “Petit”. (1833-1899)

Jean “Petit” Dumont was born at St. Boniface, the son of Jean Baptiste Dumont and Marguerite Laframboise. He married Domitilde Gravelle<sup>1</sup> and they had twelve children. They moved to the Duck Lake, St. Laurent area from St. François Xavier in the early 1870s. Jean was the brother of Vital Dumont (b. 1830). Jean was a witness during the signing of Treaty Six at Fort Carlton on September 9, 1876.

Jean was a member of Captain James Short’s company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Resistance. Isidore Dumont was Jean’s uncle and Gabriel Dumont was his cousin. Petit Jean Dumont is with Edouard Dumont when they go to Fish Creek (Tourond’s Couleé) to rescue the men pinned down there by Middleton:

At Lenoir Parenteau’s they begin to meet some of the Indians who have left the battle. They do not want to return to Fish Creek with Edouard. At Ignace Poitras’, they meet old Pilon and three others who do not want to go back either. The same four continue on. Then they meet four Sioux, two of who return with them. Finally, in the early afternoon, they run into Gabriel and four or five others. Gabriel does not want to let Edouard go any further as there are not enough of them and consequently, nothing can be done. He makes him come back toward Batoche.

After traveling for a while they meet 60 men on horseback who had happened to be on the left bank. (In the morning, no one had been willing to leave with him). Again Gabriel says it is useless for them to go. But an Indian by the name of Yellow Blanket says to Gabriel:

“Uncle, when one wants to go and rescue his friends, he does not wait for the next day.”

Edouard agrees:

“Yes I wanted to go to their rescue; we must go.”

Gabriel agrees. They return to Fish Creek and they say:

“This time, no one will run away.” Gabriel, Edouard and Yellow Blanket walk behind to prevent anyone from deserting.

They go to Pierre Tourond’s where they clean their rifles. In the house, someone drops his gun, which goes off; nobody is hit. They leave for the battlefield. The sun is low. They scatter. Edouard Dumont, Petit Jean Dumont, Andre Letendré, a Sioux and two Crees rush straight ahead in the direction of the surrounded Métis. Edouard says to them:

“I have the best horse; let me go first.”

On arriving they see that the English are fleeing on the other side. Edouard shouts:

“Are you still alive?”

“We’re all not dead.”

All the others arrive.

After the defeat at Batoche Jean ‘Petit’ and Domitilde accompany, Baptiste Parenteau, Isidore Parenteau, Patrice Joseph Fleury and Edouard Dumont to Montana where they all joined the Spring Creek Métis Band in the Judith Basin of Montana. He died on April 30, 1899 at Batoche.

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<sup>1</sup> Domitilde Gravelle, born 1828, was the daughter of Nancy Kipling (b. 1810) and Michael Gravelle (d. 1835).

Their son Alexis Dumont was born on July 5, 1864 at St. Norbert. He was married to Betsy Kinawis and then married Sarah Morin. Their family moved to the Duck Lake, St. Laurent area in the early 1870s. Alexis was a member of Captain Bernard Paul's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. Alexis went to Gabriel Dumont's father's house to get bannocks for Gabriel to take on his escape to Montana. He also took the message that Gabriel was leaving to Madeleine Dumont.

Their son Alexandre Dumont was born on November 16, 1870 at Duck Lake. He married Anne Ferguson, the daughter of Antoine Ferguson and Elise Jerome, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 1894 at Batoche. They later moved to Great Falls, Montana.



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