

Jean Baptiste Ritchot *dit* Janvier. (b. 1848)

Jean was a Red River Métis who was born in January 1848 at St. Vital, the son of Jean Baptiste Ritchot and Marie Anne Châtelain.¹ On November 26, 1868, he married Élise Hénault *dit* Canada, daughter of Charles Hénault and Louise Parisien, at in the parish of St. Boniface. His wife was born on January 6, 1851 at St. Vital. They had two sons and a daughter. Together with Louis Riel and André Nault *père*, Janvier Ritchot was one of the men who prevented the Canadian surveyors from continuing their work on the Métis' lands on 11 October 1869, clamping his foot down on the surveyor's chain. On that date, Adam Clark Webb, who was in charge of the survey made the following notation in his diary: "Surveyed one section & chained half a section when stopped by 18 Half Breeds. Found it impossible to proceed further...Sent report in to await Col. Denis orders to proceed."²

This action started the Metis protest movement that would soon result in the formation of the Provisional Government. On 30 October 1869, Ritchot and Nault were sent as envoys of the newly-formed *Comité National des Métis* to deliver the order to Lieutenant Governor designate William McDougall at Pembina forbidding him from entering the territory without special permission of the Committee.

On March 3, 1870, Ritchot was part of the court martial that sentenced Thomas Scott to death, raising the motion for capital punishment, which was seconded by André Nault and ratified by Elzéar Goulet and Joseph Delorme. As a result, Ritchot was arrested for murder in February 1874, but the declaration of amnesty cut short any legal action against him. On 20 June 1877, he applied for his Metis lands under the Manitoba Act at St. Vital, listing himself as a laborer. His application on behalf of his son Antoine Ritchot is shown below.

Jean-Baptiste Ritchot's first wife died 17 April 1898 in the parish of St. Daniel. He married for a second time, on February 6, 1899 in the parish of St. François Xavier, to Isabelle Larance. She was born on January 17, 1852 at St. Vital, the daughter of Basile Larence and Agathe "Iroquois." Isabelle was previously married to Cyrille Larocque, son of Charles Larocque and Cécile Laberge, in October 1869. She and Jean-Baptiste Ritchot had no children.

¹ Jean Baptiste Ritchot *père* was born on January 1, 1823 in St. Boniface, the son of Joseph Ritchot and Josephte Amiotte or Mailloux; Marie Anne Châtelain was born 15 November 1831, the daughter of Nicolas Châtelain and Anne Nanette Chartier. Joseph Ritchot, the son of Michel Ritchot and Marguerite Crevier, was born circa 1785-1788 in St.-Michel d'Yamaska, Québec. He married Josephte Amiotte, daughter of Antoine Mailloux and a Sarcee woman, on October 17, 1825 in St. Boniface. Josephte was born about 1797 and baptized on October 16, 1825 at St. Boniface. She was buried 23 February 1867 in the same parish.

² J.S. Dennis lists the names as;—Louis Riel, leader, De Saugré and Son, Baptiste Nona, Baptiste Treuau and three Sons, François Charest, Bideau Non, Edward Morin, Mannin Non, Janvive Richot, Benjamin Non, three others, names not known.

PUISSANCE DU CANADA *J. Baptiste Ritchot, Cultivateur*
 PROVINCE DE MANITOBA
 Comté de *Provencher*

de la Paroisse de *S. Vital*
 dans le dit Comté, étant dument assermenté, dépose et dit :

Que
Antoine Ritchot N° *3. Vital* dans la dite Paroisse le *10 février* 1870

Est 1 enfant de *Jean Baptiste Ritchot*
 un *(Métis)* et de *Louise Henault*
 un *(Métis)* tel qu'il appert de l'extrait de baptême produit avec les présentes.

Le dit ~~Antoine~~ *Jean Baptiste Ritchot* était métis, chef de famille et résidait dans la Province de Manitoba le 15 juillet, 1870.

Les dits enfants auront respectivement 18 ans, aux dates ci-après mentionnées :
Antoine Ritchot le *10 février* 1888 ✓

Le dit enfant a droit de participer dans le partage du 1,400,000 acres de terre, réservés en faveur des enfants métis.
 Et le dit déposant a déclaré ne savoir signer.

Assermenté devant moi au lieu ci-dessus mentionné, ce dixseptième jour de novembre 1875. *J. Baptiste Ritchot* *sa*
M. W. H. H. H. *marque*
 Commissaire.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
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