

Madeleine Fagnant Gervais (b. 1823)

Madeleine was the matriarch of the large Fagnant-Gervais clan that was heavily involved in supporting Gabriel Dumont and Louis Riel during the 1885 Resistance. Her husband Alex Gervais, brother-in-law Bazile Gervais (b. 1821), her brother Cuthbert Fagnant, and three sons; Patrice, Charles and Cuthbert fought in the Resistance. Six of her daughters were married to Resistance activists.

Madeleine Fagnant dit Faillant was born in November 1823 in Ste. Agathe, and died 1897 in Batoche. She was the daughter of Francois Fagnan born in 1796 in Manitoba. He died on June 5, 1878 in Lebret, Saskatchewan. Her mother was Charlotte Falardeau (b. 1799). Her brother Cuthbert Fagnant (1828-1893) was married to Isabelle McGillis. He was a bison hunter out of St. Francois Xavier, Wood Mountain and Batoche. He also worked as a freighter and moved to Batoche area in 1872. He lived on Lots 34 and 35 at Batoche. Cuthbert fought along side Edouard and Gabriel Dumont at the last stand near Ambroise Champagne's house at Batoche. His sons Patrice, Charles and Cuthbert also fought at Batoche.

She married Alexis Gervais (1818-1895) on September 9, 1839 in St. Francois Xavier. He was the son of son of Jean Baptiste Gervais (b. 1776) and Madeleine Bonneau dit Paul (b. 1805). Madeleine was the daughter of Jean Baptiste Bonneau¹ and Louise (Saulteaux).

Siblings of Alexis Gervais:

- Basile Gervais, was born 1821 in Red River Settlement. He married Francoise Ledoux about 1841 in Red River Settlement. Bazile and his sons, Jean Baptiste (1852-1910) Elzear (b. 1862), Napoleon (1859-1939), Noel (b. 1856) and St. Pierre (b. 1864) were active in the 1885 Resistance.
- Francois Gervais, was born 1828 in Red River Settlement. He married Angelique Kekehons (b. 1825) in 1848 in Red River Settlement. She died in 1850 and he then married Joseph Bruyere (b. 1828).
- Paul Gervais, was born 1835 in Red River Settlement (Manitoba); died Unknown. He married Madeleine Page Abt. 1855 in Red River Settlement (Manitoba); born 1836 in Red River Settlement.
- Joseph Gervais died on March 9, 1837, 8 years old.

¹ Jean Baptiste Bonneau was born on April 15, 1758 in Vincennes, Indiana. He died on May 26, 1842 in St. Francois Xavier. He married Marie Louise Pacanne, born 1760 (she was a Miami) on November 6, 1786.

- Cuthbert Gervais, died 18 Dec 1843, at age two and one-half.
- Jean Baptiste Gervais, died on April 17, 1834, 18 years old.

Children of Madeleine and Alexis Gervais:

- Charlotte (b. 1840) was married to Norbert “Mankachee” Delorme. He was one of the Half Breed hunters who signed the Metis petition from Fort Qu’Appelle and also signed the 1878 petition for a reserve from the Cypress Hills Metis hunting band. Riel sent Norbert to Battleford to solicit First Nations support. Norbert and Rattler (Fineday) were the respective war chiefs of the Metis and the Cree during the Battle of Cut Knife Hill.
- Isabelle (b. 1842) was married to William Ross (b. 1840) on November 25, 1862 in St Francois Xavier Parish.
- Norbert was born on October 14, 1844, he died on June 19, 1846, 1 1/2 years old.
- Cleophas was born on February 1, 1847. He married Catherine Ross (b. 1849) on November 27, 1865 in St. Francois Xavier, she was the daughter of Daniel Donald Ross and Catherine Delorme.
- Josephte (b. 1851) was married in 1882 to Calixte Tourond (1853-1885). Calixte fought and died at Batoche on May 12, 1885.
- Patrice (b. 1854) was married to Francoise Lafournaise. He was a member of Captain Baptiste Vandal’s Company during the 1885 Resistance.
- Elise Gervais (b. 1856) was married to Toussaint Laplante. Toussaint was a member of Captain Jonas Moreau’s Company during the 1885 Resistance.
- Madeleine, died on March 9, 1863, 3 months old.
- Catherine (b. 1864) was married to Pierre Tourond. Pierre was a member of Captain James short’s Company in the 1885 Resistance.
- Marie (b. 1866) was married to Patrice Tourond (1857-1898). Patrice and Joseph Delorme served as principle lieutenants for Gabriel Dumont. Patrice acted as a bodyguard for Louis Riel during the last day of battle.



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