Pierre Charbonneau. (b. 1844)

In 1878, Pierre Charbonneau was part of a group of Metis who signed a petition for a Metis reserve in Montana, sent by Louis Riel to General Nelson A. Miles, August 6, 1880.

Pierre Charbonneau was born in St. Boniface in 1844, the son of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau and Louise (Lizette) Boucher. In November 1869, he married Rose Azure the daughter of Charles Azure and Nancy Grant at St. Joseph's North Dakota. In Winnipeg on November 22, 1886 he made the following scrip claim:

"I lived in the parish of St. Boniface until June of 1863 when I left to go to St. Joseph in the U.S. where I lived for 2 or 3 years. Then I went to many places in the United States. I lived at Devil's Lake on 15th July 1870 and I went in 1871 to 1875 between Wood Mountain and White Mud River, as much on the American side as on the British side, then I was taken by the American troops with the other Half Breeds in Montana, where I lived for some time, then I went back to Wood Mountain in the summer of 1886 and then to Turtle Mountain when I left my family to come back to make my application for scrip."

He claimed for the following children: Marie Mathilde born at the White Mud River age 13; Marie Louise born at Milk River age 12 years; Jean Baptiste born at Lewistown Montana age 7; Elizabeth born at Lewistown, age 5; Justine born at Lewistown age 3; Marie Josephine born at St. John's age 3 months.

Charbonneau's claim was denied as he was deemed to be "an American Half Breed."



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