

Samuel Forque (Ford).

Sam Forque, a Canadian Metis, moved to the Sun River area of Montana to run cattle for the American Fur company at Fort Benton. Samuel Ford was the son of Henry McCullough and Mary Louise Choquette. Sam changed his name to Ford. He had moved to the Sun River area to run cattle for the American Fur company out of Fort Benton in the 1860s. He married first to a Blackfoot widow, Ellen and in 1866 started their own ranch. She died two years later. He then married a Metis woman named Clementine Lapierre¹, whose family, along with many other Metis, had moved with their cattle to the Front Range in the 1860s. The couple were married on June 24, 1875 at St. Peter's Mission, Montana. They had five children together. Their home became a gathering place for the whole Metis community. A number of Clemence's siblings² lived along Ford Creek, west of what is now Augusta, Montana.

Francois Xavier Lapierre, Clemence's older brother, was born on March 19, 1850. He married Marie rose Swain, the daughter of James Swain and Marie Arcand on March 25, 1879 at St. Peter's Mission.

The LaPierre clan lived along the creek west of Augusta, Montana. Sam relocated his ranch to that area, now known as Ford Creek. The Ford and La Pierre clans were representative of the numerous Metis communities that formed along the Front Range from Augusta to Heart Butte. (With contributions by Nicholas Vrooman.)



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¹ Clemence Lapierre was born February 2, 1858, the daughter of Antoine Lapierre (b. 1818) and Catherine Gagnon. Antoine and Catherine were enumerated in the Pembina census of 1850 as family # 92. He is listed as a hunter.

² Jean and wife Marie Landry; Moise and wife Angelique Parenteau, Ambroise and wife Adelaide Rocheblanc; and Euphrosine.