

Trottier Family in Metis History

André Trottier Sr. Andre Trottier was born on September 27, 1757 at St. Joachim, Pointe Claire, Montreal, Quebec, he married Louise (Chippewa Indian) sometime before 1790.

Their sons Andre II and Joseph were both active with Cuthbert Grant in the **Battle of Seven Oaks**. Their grandson Andre Trottier III (son of Andre II) was active in the **Battle of the Grand Coteau** on July 12 to 15, 1851.

Their grandson Charles “Wahpass” Trottier (son of Andre II) was a trader and the leader of the Metis hunting band operating out of Prairie Ronde. In 1878, Charles Trottier, his brother Michel, his brother-in-law, Augustin Laframboise, his nephews Alexandre and Andre III, and other Metis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Metis reserve of land.

Subsequently, Charles Trottier, his brother Michel, his brother-in-law, son-in-law, nephews and sons Isidore, Jean Baptiste and Remi were all active in the **Northwest Metis Resistance of 1885**. Michel Trottier was killed during the last day of fighting at Batoche.

André Trottier II. (1784-1874)

André Trottier was born in 1784 in the NWT, the son of André Trottier and Louise (Chippewa). He married Marguerite Paquette, the daughter of André Paquette and Lizette (Cree) in 1811 at Red River. This family was enumerated in the Pembina Census of 1850 as Family # 84. They list Andre age 66, a hunter, Marguerite age 50, Joseph age 22, a hunter, Michel age 19, a hunter, Antoine age 14, and Charles age 10. Andre and his brother Joseph were participants in the Battle of Seven Oaks as part of Cuthbert Grant’s party. From the Coltman Report:

André Trottier, “Half-Breed,” stated the following to Commissioner William Coltman as despotion (sic) into the investigation of the fur trade war: That on his arrival near the encampment he was met by Mr. Alexander MacDonnell, who had with him Seraphim Lamar and Bostonais Pangman, and asked him, “What news?” to which he answered, “we fought yesterday”; and being further questioned, he answered, “that there were 22 of the English killed, that on their side, his brother [Joseph Trottier] was wounded, and a half-breed of the name Batoche, killed.” Bostonais Pangman was quoted as saying that Batoche was his cousin and he must be revenged.¹

¹ State Historical Society of North Dakota, Vol. 4, p. 534

NAME: TROTTIER, André Jr. **PARISH:** [Red River] **ENTERED SERVICE:** 1813 **DATES:** b. ca. 1791
d. 24 April 1874+

Appointments & Service Outfit Year*:	Position:	Post:	District:	HBCA Reference:
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**An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May*

<u>North West Company:</u> 1813-1818			Red River	F.4/32 fo. 869
1833-1843	Appears in Red River Census (aged 42-52), Lot 164 St Francois Xavier			Sprague & Frye

Father: André (b. ca. 1757, appears in Red River Census 1833-1838, aged 76-81) (Gail Morin, *Red River Censuses*)
Wife: Marguerite Paquet [Paquette dit St. Denis] (b. 1787), daughter of Antoine Paquet (Sprague & Frye, *First Metis Nation*)
Child: André (b. 1816) m. Isabel Falcon (b. 1819), daughter of Pierre Falcon (Sprague & Frye)

+ buried at Lebret SK (Gail Morin, *Métis Families...*)

Filename: Trottier, André Jr. (b. ca. 1791) (fl. NWC 1813-1818); JHB 2002/08



André Trottier died on April 24, 1874 at Lebret in the Qu'Appelle Valley.

Joseph Trottier. (1790-1852)

Joseph Trottier worked for Cuthbert Grant. Joseph Trottier was wounded with a broken leg during the Battle of Seven Oaks. His brother André reported to Alexandre Greenfield Macdonell that he was going from the forks to get his parents from the Souris River to come and care for his brother.² Joseph was born circa 1790, the son of André Trottier and Louise (Chippewa). His brother André was also in the battle. Joseph married Marie (Saulteaux) before 1824 by custom marriage and they were formally married on June 14, 1841 at St. Francois Xavier. The family was enumerated in the 1850 Pembina Census as Family # 20. They list Joseph as age 60, a hunter, Marie also age 60, Baptiste age 26, a hunter, Marguerite age 22, and Catherine age 20. Joseph died in January of 1852 and was buried at Pembina.

André Trottier, III (b. 1816) Andre married Isabelle Falcon, the daughter of Pierre Falcon and Marie Grant. Andre was the son of Andre Trottier and Marguerite St. Denis dit Paquette.

Andre and his wife Isabelle Falcon are both named in the story of the Battle of the Grand Coteau told on May 23, 1938 to Father Picton by François Xavier Falcon³, the son of 1851 hunt leader, Isabelle's brother, Jean Baptiste Falcon.

François Xavier Falcon says, "*When Jean Baptiste Falcon was going around acting as captain, his sister Isabelle was fighting in his place. She never left him alone during the*

² Macdonell, Alexander Greenfield, "A narrative of transactions in the Red River country: From the commencement of the operations of the Earl of Selkirk, till the summer of the year 1816." London: B. McMillan, 1820: 78.

³ Note that Francois Xavier Falcon was born in 1861, some ten years after this event occurred.

*three days battle, she would force him to rest and during that time she would shoot and she was a good shot too.”*⁴

Charles “Wahpass” (Rabbit) Trottier. (b. 1839)

Charles was the leader of the Metis from Prairie-Ronde, south of Saskatoon; he had wintered there since the mid-1850s. Charles Trottier (born 1839) and his older brother Michel Trottier (born 1832) appear on 1863-64 Red Lake and Pembina Chippewa Treaty as numbers 444 and 457 when they were given Red Lake Half-breed Scrip in 1875.

Charles was a trader in the North West Territories, having hunted with his nephew Norbert Welsh for many years. His hunting band often joined with that of Isidore “Ecapow” Dumont when on the plains. Charles spoke excellent English and French as well as over ten Aboriginal languages and was often sent as a messenger by the Metis councils. He was born December 4, 1839 at St. François Xavier, the son of André Trottier and Marguerite St. Denis *dit* Paquette. His first marriage was to Marie-Anne Parenteau, his second to Ursula Laframboise. Ursula’s brother, Augustin was living on the Muskeg Lake Reserve and was a Captain of one of the 19 companies led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. His son Edouard also served in his Company. He was involved in the 1885 Resistance at Duck Lake with Dumont and was killed there by Crozier’s troops on March 26, 1885.

In 1878, Charles Trottier, Augustin Laframboise and other Metis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Metis reserve of land. They requested a re-opening of the buffalo hunt between November 14th and February 15th each year and the granting of Metis “reserve” land—A strip of land 150 miles long along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border. This strip was to be fifty miles from south to north.

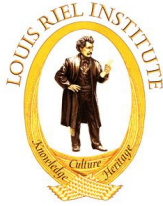
Trottier was a close friend and relative of Gabriel Dumont and brought his men along with the Dakota Indians of Whitecap’s Band to fight at Batoche in April of 1885 (about 60 men in all). He and Whitecap were members of Riel’s Exovedate (Provisional Government). Among this group were three of his sons and two of his nephews.

Michel Trottier. (1832-1885)

Michel was born at White Horse Plain, the son of André Trottier and Marguerite St. Denis *dit* Paquette. Michel married Marie Angélique Desjarlais. He then married Marguerite Landry in 1876. Michel was the brother of Charles Trottier Sr., in 1876; Michel was issued Scrip # 57 (160 acres) under the Red Lake and Pembina Treaty. In 1878, Michel and other Metis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Metis reserve of land. This family had two children born at Crooked Lake and his wife was on the Treaty Pay list at the Duck Lake Agency. During the 1885

⁴ Dated Ste. Anne des Chenes on May 23, 1938. Public Archives of Manitoba, Belleau Collection.

Resistance, after Captain Boyer was killed, Michel Trottier was named to succeed him.⁵ He fought and died on May 12, 1885 in the last battle of the 1885 Resistance at Batoche. He is buried at St. Antoine de Padoue Cemetery, Batoche.



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⁵ SHM, p. 44.