

## **Urbain Henault *dit* Delorme. (1802-1886)**

Urbain Delorme, the son of François Enos *dit* Delorme (b. 1767) and Madeleine (Charlotte) de Saulteuse (Ojibway, b. 1771), was born around 1802 on the Western Plains near Headingly, Manitoba. Urbain at age four was taken by his father to Berthierville, Quebec to be baptized along with his sister Seraphie. Urbain lived there with his aunts until age 17.

His father had come to Montreal in September 1817 to testify at the trials about the events at Red River that were a result of the war between the NWC and HBC. Urbain returned to Red River in a canoe, which was sent twice a year to bring the mail west. Thirteen Iroquois under the command of a clerk named Jasson manned this canoe. When Urbain arrived at Fort Douglas, one of the individuals showed him a tent near the Fort where his mother was.

He went there to speak to her but they did not understand each other in that Urbain only spoke French, so he had to have an interpreter to speak to her. When she realized who he was, she cried out “Mounia Ounion - the man from Montreal.”

At Red River, Urbain proved himself to be a good hunter. He was prudent in all his endeavors, moderate and patient, of a calm character but firm and resolute. He was chosen captain of the buffalo hunt camp for 25 consecutive years. These camps numbered approximately 500 carts.

Urbain was married to Madeleine Vivier (b. 1815), the daughter of Alexis Vivier Sr. and his Assiniboine wife, Marie Anne. Urbain and Madeleine had thirteen children. Madeleine on March 6, 1875 at St. Francois Xavier.

1. Maguerite Delorme b: June 1824 in St. Francois Xavier. Married Cuthbert McGillis.
2. Catherine Delorme b: January 1825 in St. Laurent. Married Donald Ross.
3. Madeleine Delorme, b: 1826. Married Edouard Sayer.
4. Marie Delorme b: 1833. Married Roderick Ross.
5. Francois Delorme b: 16 August 1834. Died September 13, 1855.
6. Pierre Delorme, b. 1835. Married Marie (Saulteaux).
7. Urbain Delorme II, b: 10 May 1835 in Fort Garry. Married Marie Desmarais.
8. Norbert Delorme, b: 8 May 1837 in St. Francois Xavier. Married Charlotte Gervais.
9. Elise Delorme, b: 25 January 1840 in St. Francois Xavier. Married Pierre Jeanotte.
10. Sara Delorme, b: 22 January 1842. Married Moise Breland.
11. Rose Delorme, b: 9 January 1847 in Red River Settlement. Married John Pritchard.
12. Joseph Com Captain Delorme, b: 2 February 1849 in St Francois Xavier. Married Louise McLeod.

13. Elzear Delorme, b: 5 February 1851 in St Francois Xavier. Died September 7, 1866.

Urbain next married Marie Blandion or Piche, the daughter of Baptiste Ka-kee-tis-taw Piche and Rosalie Blandion on August 23, 1877 at St. Laurent. They had two children, Urbain, born 1877 at Red Deer River; and Rosalie born in 1879 at Qu'Appelle.

Urbain was an influential man in his St. François Xavier parish and in his region. In 1849, he was very involved in the trial of Guillaume Sayer and in the successful efforts of the Metis to break the HBC's monopoly of trade. On October 16, 1850 he was appointed to the position of Magistrate.

By his hard work Urbain managed to amass a small fortune. Judge Prud'homme related that one day, before leaving for the Prairies, Urbain stopped off at the St. François Xavier convent and asked one of the Sisters to take care of a small chest. Two hours later Urbain returned to find his chest sitting on the table. He told the Sister, "Sister, in this small box, there is four thousand dollars in gold. It would be better not to leave it on the table." Urbain later asked Bishop Taché to invest £800 sterling for him.

Urbain and his family lived on Lot 162 in the parish of St. François Xavier, Manitoba. At the time of the 1835 census he owned 5 horses, 10 head of cattle and seven carts.

Father Dumoulin blessed Urbain's marriage at age 22 to Madeline Vivier at Pembina. Urbain and Madeline had 12 children from this marriage. Urbain died August 18th, 1886 and was buried on the 20th at St. François Xavier, Manitoba. (Portions contributed by Lorraine Freeman.)



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