

François Payasis (Peeaysis) Desjarlais (1824-1899)

François (Peayasis, Peeaysis, or Peayasis) was born at Beaver River in 1824, the son of Joseph Ladoceur *dit* Desjarlais and Josephte Cardinal who was the daughter of Joseph Soldat Cardinal and Lizette Maskegon. Note that Joseph Soldat Cardinal's fourth wife was Isabelle Capotvert or Matchemutow.

François married Euphrosine Auger in 1845 at Lac la Biche. She was the daughter of Antoine Auger and Marie Nipissing. Next he married Marie Cardinal, the daughter of Wappi-mostionos in 1874 at Red Deer River.

François Peeaysis Desjarlais and Euphrosine Auger had the following children:

- Angele, b. 1846, married John Cardinal, the son of Pierre Cardinal and Marguerite Isimakits.
- Guillaume Okanis or Desjarlais, b. 1851, married Marguerite Sauvé.
- Marguerite, b.c. 1853, married Francois Castor.
- Christine, c. 1856, married Joseph Deschamps, and then married John William "Piscon" Munroe.
- Joseph, b. 1857, married Therese Auger.
- Eliza, b. 1860, married Joseph Cardinal, the son of Gabriel Cardinal and Marie Piwapiskapaw Bruneau.
- Veronique, b. 1863, married Benjamin Sinclair.
- Mary Jane, b. 1867, married Andrew Pruden.
- Michel, b. 1869.
- Delphine, b. 1871, died at 2 months.

Chief *Peeaysis*, François Desjarlais, signed Treaty No. 6 in 1876. François Desjarlais was involved in the 1885 Resistance. After he heard of the fight at Duck Lake he travelled to join the resistance fight at Battle River.¹

Following the Band's involvement in the 1885 Resistance their annuities were cut off. Heather Devine notes that in late 1885 "Many of the local leaders of the rebellion had long since fled. François "Peaysis" Desjarlais, Chief of the Cree at Lac la Biche, had gone south, as had many of the dissidents from Big Bear's band. Like many others who had participated in the uprising Peaysis was suspicious of any amnesty that was offered by the government, particularly after the execution of Louis Riel. When he applied for and received scrip years later, he filed his affidavit in Calgary, over three hundred miles south of Lac la Biche. He never returned to live in northern Alberta, but moved east to Battleford instead, where he died in 1899."²

¹ François and his first wife and their children applied for scrip while living at Métis Crossing, claims # 133 and 553.

² Heather Devine, *The People Who Own Themselves*. Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 204: 177-178.

According to a census taken in 1872 Lac La Biche once had a larger population than Edmonton. Although most of the residents of Lac la Biche had taken treaty under Chief Peeaysis in 1876, many band members were removed from the annuity lists as punishment for participation in the 1885 Métis Resistance and most subsequently applied to withdraw from treaty and take Métis Scrip.

Desjarlais, François; address: Calgary; claim no. 133; born: 1824 at Beaver River; father: Joseph Desjarlais (Métis); mother: Joseph Cardinal (Métis); married: in 1844 at Lac la Biche to Euphrasine Auger (deceased); and in 1874 at Red Deer River to Marie Fleury; children living: 10; scrip for \$160.00

Desjarlais, François; for his children, as heirs to their mother Euphrasine Auger; claim no. 553; address: Victoria Settlement; born: 1828 at Lesser Slave Lake; father: Augustin Auger (French Canadian); mother: Marie Nipissing (Métis); married: 1843 at Lac la Biche to François Desjarlais, deponent; children living: 9; children deceased: died young and intestate and without issue; died: Summer, 1873 at Lac la Biche; heirs: Marguerite Desjarlais, \$17.77; Guillaume Desjarlais, \$17.77; Joseph Desjarlais, \$17.77; Angéle Desjarlais, \$17.77; Eliza Desjarlais, \$17.77; Véronique Desjarlais, \$17.77; Mary Jane Desjarlais, \$17.77; Michel Desjarlais, \$17.77

Desjarlais, Joseph; address: Lac la Biche; claim no. 713; born: 1858 on the Plains South of the Saskatchewan; father: François Desjarlais or Pa-ya-sis (Métis); mother: Euphrasine Auger (Métis); married: 1885 at Lac la Biche to Thérèse Auger; children living: 1; scrip for \$240.00

Desjarlais, Guillaume; address: Lac la Biche; claim no. 697; born: 1851 at Lac la Biche; father: François Desjarlais (Métis); mother: Euphrasine Auger (Métis); married: 27 July, 1870 to Marguerite Sauvé; children living: 4; children deceased: 2; scrip for \$240.00.

Desjarlais, Eliza; address: Victoria; claim no. 573; born: 1861 at Lac la Biche; father: François Desjarlais (Métis); mother: Euphrasine Auger (Métis); married: 1878 at Lac la Biche to Joseph Cardinal; children living: 3; scrip for \$240.00

Desjarlais, Angéle; address: Lac la Biche; claim no. 674; born: 1846 at Lac la Biche; father: François Desjarlais (Métis); mother: Euphrasine Auger (Métis); married: 1866 to John Cardinal at Lac la Biche; children living: 9; children deceased: 1; scrip for \$160.00

Cardinal, Véronique; address: Victoria; claim no. 566; born: 1864 at Lac la Biche; father: François Desjarlais (Métis); mother: Euphrasine Auger (Métis); married: 1884 at Lac la Biche to Benjamin Sinclair; children living: 1; scrip for \$240.00

Munro, Christine - Concerning her claim as a child - Born, 1855 at Lac la Biche - Father, François Desjarlais, (Métis) - Mother, Euphrasine Augé, (Métis) - Married, 1877 at Blackfoot Crossing to Joseph Deschamps and fall of 1884 at High River to

William Munro - Children living, three (names on declaration) - Children deceased,
one - Scrip for \$240 - Claim 308



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