

Judith Guardipee (Gariepy) née Cardinal. (1827-1885)

Judith was born in 1827 at Choteau, Montana, the daughter of Antoine Louis Cardinal (b. 1795) and Marie De Montigny Comptois (b. 1807). Judith's siblings were: Michel, married to Marie Wannande (Iroquois); Andre (b. 1825) married to Rosalie Berland; Narcisse (b. 1830) married to Marie Magdeleine Gariepy; Marie (b. 1832) married to Louis Gariepy; Josephte (b. 1832) married to Pierre Nadeau; Catherine (b. 1836) married to Jean Baptiste Vanasse; and Louis (b. 1840) married to Marie Anne Berland.

Judith first married Narcisse Morissette (b. 1817) in 1844 at St. François Xavier (SFX). Narcisse Morissette, en route for Montreal, died in Sault St. Marie. The couple had three children:

- Adelaide Morissette, born 1848.

Scrip affidavit for Desjarlais, Adelaide; wife of Andre Desjarlais; born: 1848; father: Narcisse Morissette (French Canadian); mother: Julie Cardinal (Métis); claim no.: 1154; date of issue: August 20, 1876.

- Angélique Morissette, born 1852. Angélique married Alexandre Gariepy and they went to Montana where he deserted her. She then married LaCourse.

L'Hirondelle, Isabelle; address: Lethbridge; claim no. 1318; born: 1871 in Montana; father: Alexander Garriepy (Métis); mother: Angélique Musette (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 864.

- Joseph Morissette, born 1853.

Judith then married Jean Baptiste Guardipee (b. 1832) on June 4, 1855 at SFX. Jean Baptiste was the son of Louis Gariepy (b. 1771) and Josephte Ducharme (b. 1806). Louis Gariepy was a voyageur, first with the North West Company and then after amalgamation with the Hudson's Bay Company. He retired to SFX in 1824. Historian Martha Foster records:¹

“In 1868, Turtle Mountain Metis Baptiste Gardipee and his family also left their game-depleted home and passed through the Milk River area.

With a group of ten families (thirty people) and thirty carts, the Gardipee family joined Tom Lavatta [Lavallee], a Metis trader who had been living near Fort Benton, Montana. The band accompanied four hundred other Metis carts heading west to hunt. When the Gardipee's reached the Milk River, they found “a great camp of [B]reeds² ... somewhere in the vicinity of where Dodson [Montana] is now.” Before travelling to Fort Benton, further west on the Missouri River, the Lavatta party spent a few weeks resting, visiting

¹ Forster, Martha. *We Know Who we Are: Metis Identity in a Montana Community*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2006: 62.

² Probably the large hunting band led by Gabriel Azure.

and hunting. Eli Gardipee, the young son of Baptiste, later recorded his memories of the Milk River Metis Camp.”

It was truly a happy life that these people were living. The camp was in the midst of the buffalo herds and they hunted and worked hard during the day but when night came they danced and sang the old French songs, until the late hours, arranged for many and divers horse races for the following day, —then slept the sleep of people who had not cares for the moment.³

In 1878, Baptiste and his son Elie were members of the group of buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills who petitioned the government for a reserve.

*Garepee [sic] attended a French school at White Horse Plains, Canada, for two years, and this closed his scholastic education, although he has acquired in the school of life a practical business experience that richly compensates for the lack of the other. Until his father's death, in 1856, he remained at home industriously working on the farm, and after this he became a noted buffalo hunter in Canada, which occupation he followed until 1868, when he came to Montana and located at Fort Benton, which he made headquarters for buffalo hunting until 1882, when the American bison practically ceased to exist and his occupation was gone. But he was equal to the emergency and in that same year secured a ranch on the upper Teton River, eighteen miles from Choteau, Teton County, and for twelve years engaged in stockraising. This property he sold in 1896, and from that time he has resided with his son, Eli, who has a fine ranch on Cut Bank River, and with his daughter, Emily, the wife of Adolphus Fellers, living near Dupuyer, Teton county. Mr. Garepee, although advanced in years, is still healthy and active, and has a number of plans mapped out for hunting and trapping in the mountains. He has seven children ; Mrs, Emily Fellers; Magdaline, now of North Dakota; Johnnie, at St. Peter's mission; Charles, living on the Teton River; Mary, married and residing in Canada; Eli, owner of the ranch on the Cut Bank river, and Josephine, wife of Gabriel Selwood (Salois), now living on the Upper Depuyer River. (From *Progressive Men of Montana* p. 1557-1558)*

Judith and Jean Baptiste Guardipee had the following children:

- Emilie Rose Guardipee, born August 31, 1855 at SFX. Emilie died at Dawson Creek, B.C. "Emily married Adolphus Fellers circa 1869 at Choteau, Montana and they have several children born in Montana. These children marry and in 1905 Adolphus, Emily and all their children, with their spouses and children, decide they are moving to southern Alberta to homestead where they all take up land in the Battle Bend District. They lived there for several years until it is said some of the boys were implicated in a horse rustling scheme and fled to Montana. The rest of the family followed except for three of the girls who stayed in Alberta. Adolphus Sr. died in the 1918 flu epidemic. In 1919 Louis, Van and Julian

³ Guardipee, Eli. "Eli Guardipee's Story." As told to John B. Ritch, Eli Guardipee Reminiscence. SC 772. MHSA.

decided to return to Canada where land was opening up in the Peace County of northern B.C. Emilie decided to come with them. They travelled by covered wagon arriving in Arras the following year. In 1923 the rest of the boys - Frank, Adolphus and Albert - decided to leave Montana and join their mother and brothers. A wagon train was assembled and it took them four years to reach their destination as they stopped along the way to work. Emilie and her six sons settled in a district that became known as Fellers Heights. Many of their descendants are still there today." Emilie and Adolphus had the following children: Louis W. b. 1871, died 1949 at Dawson Creek; Francis, born 1873 at Dupuyer, Montana died 1953 at Dawson Creek; Louis M. born 1877 Choteau, Montana; rose, born 1879 Choteau, Montana; Adolphus Charles, born 1881 at Choteau Montana, died 1956 at Dawson Creek; Albert, born 1844 in Montana, died 1953 at Dawson Creek; Mary C. born 1885 at Choteau, Montana, died 1979 at Powell, Montana; Julien, born 1888 at choteau, Montana, died 1976 at Vernon, B.C.; Hattie, born 1890 at Choteau, Montana; Laura born 1893 in Montana; Van Celestian, born 1895 at Choteau, Montana, died 1858 at Arras, B.C.

- Elie L. Guardipee, born May 31, 1857 at SFX. Eli is first married to Mary (b.c. 1862) and they have two children John Guardipee b. 1878 and Unnamed born 1880 at Choteau. In 1877, he marries "Old Beaver Woman" (b. 1860 at Glacier, Montana) they have a son Thomas Albert Guardipee (b. 1880). Circa 1881 he marries Sadie "Does Not quite Strike" (b. 1870) and they have children: Frank, born circa 1885; Charles E., born 1888; Josephine, born c. 1890; Louise M. born 1893; Agnes M. born 1896 and William Joseph, born c. 1891.

Garriepy, Eli; address: Kipp, Montana; claim no. 1447; born: 31 May, 1857 near Turtle Mountain; father: Baptiste Garriepy (Métis); mother: Julia Judith Cardinal (Métis); file ref. 951778.

- Madeleine Guardipee, born April 13, 1859. Madeleine was married and divorced before June of 1880. In the 1880 Census at Choteau they record "Guardipee Madeleine / H.B. Indian / female / age 21 / Daughter / divorced / occupation At home / cannot read / cannot write / born Canada / father born Canada / mother born Montana / living at North Bank, Upper Teton River, Choteau, with parents Baptiste and Julia Guardipee, sisters Mary and Josephine Guardipee, brothers John and Charles Guardipee, half-brother Joseph Guardipee, half-sister [or half-sister-in-law] Sarah Guardipee, nephew Eli Guardipee, niece Julia Guardipee." She then marries on November 21, 1881 at St. Peter's Mission, Louis Bruno Azure born circa 1860 in ND. They have the following children: Justine born 1883 in ND; Moses born 1885 in ND; Baptiste born 1890 in ND; and Caroline born 1892 in ND.
- Joseph Guardipee born 1860.
- Jean Guardipee, born March 16, 1861. He married Henriette Blondion *dit* White the daughter of William Blandion and Rosalie Malaterre in 1882 at St. Peter's

Mission. Their children are: John born February 28, 1882 at St. Peter's, he marries Celina Belgard; Mildred Harriet born January 18, 1890 at Choteau, she marries Michael Belgard; Nelson Aloysius born January 23, 1895; Joseph Wilber born February 28, 1898; Cyril born May 15, 1900; George Henry born April 10, 1902; Marie Seraphina born July 10, 1895; Theresa born July 12, 1906; and Carrie born February 12, 1909.

- Melanie Guardipee, born February 16, 1863.
- Charles W. Guardipee, born 1865. 1894 Census of the Blackfoot Blood and Piegan Indians: listed as as No. 349 / Charles Guardipee / male / Husband / age 32 / listed with wife Kate Sherman Guardipee and adopted daughter Mary Guardipee. In the 1896 Blackfoot Census listed as as No. 351 / 3 / Charles Guardipee / male / Husband / age 29 / listed with wife Kate Guardipee, daughter Mary Guardipee. In the Canadian Census of 1906 listed as Gardiphee Charley / Head / male / married / age 41 / born Manitoba / post office Red Willow / Section 14 / Township 40 / Range 11 / Meridian [illegible] / 4 horses / 5 cattle / living at Red Willow, Strathcona District, Alberta with wife Kate Gardiphee, daughter Agnes Gardiphee.
- Marie Guardipee, born 1868 on the plains near Medicine Hat baptized at Teton River. In 1885 she marries Vital Emard (French Canadian) at Choteau. In the 1901 census, Peace River listed as Mary Emard / female / red / Wife / married / age 36 / birthplace McLeod / racial or tribal origin Full Breed / religion Roman Catholic / can read / can write / can speak English / can speak French / mother tongue French / living at Peace River, Athabaska District, with husband Vital Emard, sons Auguste, Frank, Jeremie and Edouard Emard, daughters Josephine and Mary Emard.
- Josephine Guardipee, born October 12, 1873 at Cypress Hills. She married Gabriel Salois, the son of Gabriel Salois and Helene Breland in 1898. She died at Dupuyer in 1955

Salois, Joséphine; address: Dupuyer; born: 12 October, 1873 at Cypress; father: Baptiste Garriépy (Métis); mother: Judith Cardinal (Métis); married: 1898 to Gabriel Salois; scrip Issued for 240 acres; file ref. 951768; claim no. 1317.

- Joseph Guardipee, born July 1874 on the South Fork. He married Marie Philomene Houle. They have two children born at Leroy, ND.



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