

Marion, Louis (1840-1921)

Louis was born at Red River on March 17, 1840. He was the son of Narcisse Marion Sr. (French Canadian) and Marie Bouchard (Metis). Louis married Marie-Andronique Ross, the daughter of Roderick Ross and Marie Delorme. This was a plains buffalo hunting family that ranged as far west as Blackfoot Crossing and Buffalo Lake (Boss Hill). On the family's scrip applications of 1876, Louis is listed as a voyageur, trader and farmer.

Louis' sister Elise (b. 1831) was married to trader Norman Kittson. His brother, Maxime Marion, was a guide for the British-American Boundary Commission in 1872-73 east of the Red River. His brother Roger Marion (b. 1846) was a politician. Roger Marion was the Conservative M.P. for Carillon in 1886 and 1888, he was defeated in 1892 and re-elected in 1896. He was the mayor of St. Boniface from 1887 to 1889. In 1891, he was elected president of the Union Mètisse Saint-Joseph.

The Marion family from St. François Xavier followed the buffalo and had established hivernant camps in the Souris River basin. Louis brothers Amable, Narcisse, Roger, Norman and Adophe settled around Oak Lake in the late 1870s. Louis spoke French and Cree. He accompanied Gabriel Dumont on buffalo hunts in the 1870s. Louis joined the community around Petit Ville, Batoche and Duck Lake. Louis and his wife Marie-Andronique had the following children: Marie rose (b. 1870); Elize (b. 1874); Agnes (b. 1876), Louis Napoleon (b. 1879); Joseph George Alexandre (b. 1882); Arthur Jules (b. 1884) and Marie Stella (b. 1887).

Louis' brothers Maxime (and wife Elise Jerome) and Joseph (wife Annie McDermott) joined the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Band sometime after 1885.¹

At the time of the 1885 Resistance Louis and Marie were living at Duck Lake and he was working as the farming instructor on One Arrow's Reserve. Later, their daughter Elise would marry François Moreau the son of Resistance Captain Louis was a member of Captain Baptiste Vandal's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. Louis did not want to join the fighting and was locked up by Louis Riel, who threatened to shoot him if he did not join. Under duress he agreed to participate, then under the pretense of going home for a gun managed to escape before the fighting began. He gives the following statement:

On the 17th March I was at Walter's store at Batoche and a young man came and told me there was going to be trouble. Next morning we were removed to the church and they had a meeting and Riel told me that I had ten minutes to consider if I would join them or else he would have to do something. I promised to join but first chance I escaped... I saw a son of George Fisher and a son of Salomon Venne and young Gareault who had been brought this way. I saw a number of Indians there, some of One Arrow's band, some of Beardy's band and some Sioux Indians. I heard that many were forced to join.²

Family Scrip Records:

¹ They appear on the 1892 McCumber list of Mixed Bloods living on the Reservation, Louis (#717), Maxime (#715) and Joseph (#716).

² Thomas White, CSP, Department of the Interior, 1887.

Scrip affidavit for Marion, Louis; born: 17 March 1840; father: Narcissee Marion (French Canadian); mother: Marie Bouchard (Métis); claim no: 1329; scrip no: 10273; date of issue: Aug. 21, 1876; amount: \$160.

Scrip affidavit for Marion, Marie-Andronique; born: 16 July 1849; wife of Louis Marion; father: Roderick Ross (Métis); mother: Marie Delorme (Métis); claim no: 751; scrip no: 5849 to 5856; amount: \$160; date of issue: June 26, 1876.

Marion, Louis; for his absent daughter, Elise, wife of Frank Moreau; address: Batoche, Saskatchewan; born: 16 December 1874 at Buffalo Lake; father: Louis Marion (Métis and deponent); mother: Marie-Andronique Ross (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 1139 for \$240.00; claim no. 742.

Marion, Louis; heir to his deceased unnamed daughter; address: Batoche; born: October 1873 at La Petite Ville (near Fish Creek); died: a few hours old; father: Louis Marion (Métis and deponent); mother: Marie-Andronique Ross (Métis); scrip cert.: form F, no. 339 for \$240 acres; claim. 629.

Marion, Arthur Jules; address: Batoche, Saskatchewan; born: 19 November 1884 at Duck Lake, Saskatchewan; father: Louis Marion (Métis); mother: Marie-Andronique Ross (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 1137 for \$240.00; claim no. 739.

Marion, Agnes; address: Batoche, Saskatchewan; born: 25 October 1876 at Blackfoot Crossing, Alberta; father: Louis Marion (Métis); mother: Marie-Andronique Ross (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 471 for 240 acres; claim no. 878.

Marion, Joseph George Alexandre; address: Batoche, Saskatchewan; born: 6 June, 1882 at St. Boniface, Manitoba; father: Louis Marion (Métis); mother: Marie-Andronique Ross (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 671 for 240 acres; claim no. 1288.

Paul Seaman, the great-great grandson of Louis Marion provided additional details for this article. Paul writes:

[Louis] filed a statement against Riel during his trial. He remained in Duck Lake and continued to work for the Department of Indian Affairs for some time. This is evident from several federal government papers reporting on the status of the One Arrow reserve years afterwards. He was also mixed up in the well-known Almighty Voice affair at One Arrow in 1895, having both turned in Almighty Voice for slaughtering a government cow without permission and also having been involved because he was a justice of the peace in the area (it is said he was so appointed as a reward for being loyal to Canada during the 1885 rebellion). Louis died in 1921 and was buried in Duck Lake. His wife, Marie-Andronique Ross died in 1933 and is also buried there.



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