

## **Garapee (Guardipee, Gariepy), Jean Baptiste. (b. 1832)**

Jean Baptiste was born at Red River in July, 1832 at St. François Xavier, the son of Louis “Awistoyus” Gariepy (b. 1771) and Josephite Suzette “Nahasthay” Ducharme (b. 1806, died 1871 on the Marias River). His father, Louis was a voyageur, first with the NWC, and then after amalgamation with the HBC. He retired to St. François Xavier in 1824. Baptiste married Judith Cardinal on June 4, 1855 in St François Xavier. She was the daughter of Antoine Cardinal and Marie DeMontigny Comtois. Baptiste’s wife Judith was born in Montana in 1828.

Baptiste was contracted by the HBC at Fort Ellice as a midman in 1855 to 1857. 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.<sup>1</sup>

Children of Jean Baptiste and Judith:

- Emelie Gariepy, born August 31, 1855 at St François Xavier. She married Adophus Fellers.
- Elie, born May 31, 1857 at St. François Xavier. He married Antoinia "Katataitsipi-tsaki" the daughter of Matusohan and Auetsipiaki on December 5, 1875 at Badger Creek, St. Peter’s Mission, Montana.
- Madeleine Gariepy, born April 13, 1859 at St François Xavier. She married Louis Bruno Azure, the son of Antoine “Tu-shish” Azure and Victoire Lariviere in 1882 at St. Peter’s Mission, Montana.
- Jean Gariepy, born March 16, 1861. He married Henrietta Blandion dite White, the daughter of William Blandion and Rosalie Malaterre in 1882 at St. Peter’s Mission, Montana.
- Melanie Gariepy, born, 1863 at St. François Xavier.
- Charles Gariepy, married Kate Sherman, and then married Catherine Fidler.
- Marie Gariepy, born 1868 on the plains near Medicine Hat, christened at Teton River, Montana, married Vital Emard, in 1885 at Choteau, Montana.
- Josephine Gariepy, born October 12, 1873 at Cypress hills, married Gabriel Salois, son of Toussaint Salois and Helene Breland in 1898. She died at Dupuyer, Montana in 1955.
- Joseph Gariepy, baptized on July 18, 1874 at the South Fork Teton River, Montana. He married Marie Philomene Houle, the daughter of Charles Houle and Felicite Martel in 1893 at St. Joseph.

Garepee 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

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<sup>1</sup> They requested a reopening of the buffalo hunt between November 15 and February 15 each year and the granting of a Métis reserve; identified as a strip of land running for 150 miles along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border. This strip of land was to be fifty miles from north to south.

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)

1880 Montana Census shows: Guardupee Baptiste / white / male / age 48 / occupation Farmer / cannot read / cannot write / born Canada / father born Canada / mother born Canada / living at North Bank, Upper Teton River, Choteau, with wife Julia Guardupee, daughters Madaleine, Mary and Josephine Guardupee, sons John and Charles Guardupee, stepson Joseph Guardupee, stepdaughter Sarah Guardupee, grandson Eli Guardupee, granddaughter Julia Guardupee.



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