

**Petition from the Metis of St. Joseph, Pembina regarding Father Belcourt:**

Saint Joseph, Pembina,  
The 19<sup>th</sup> of Feb. 1862

To His Excellency, Rt. Rev. Bishop of Quebec,

At a meeting held at St. Joseph, in the year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, We the undersigned pray Your Lordship, if possible in anyway, to grant us Rev. Geo. Ant. Belcourt, who has heretofore exercised on the ecclesiastical functions.

Many poor families are deprived of the Sacrements [sic] on account of the difference of languages, which language is not understood by the present Priest.

James McFetridge	J. B. Bottineau	J.E. Donaldson
Baptiste Charrette	Antonio Assem	Michel Klyne
Baptiste Delorme	Manuel Champagne	J. B. Payeur
Ed Langis Jr.	H. Laquete	J. Parentoux
F. Klyne	J. B. Champagne	Michel Patenaude
Antoine Vandal	Joseph Fanan	Baptiste Boivin
P. Deschesneau	Loweson Petit	Antonio Fadan
J. Bte. Fanan	Abraham Parenteau	Isidore Malette
Jos. Lecerdule	Charles Grant	James Grant
Cuthbert Grant	Charles Assure	Bazile Delorme
Pascal Montour	Francois Malette	Abraham Parenteaux Sr.
Francois Amyiotte Sr.	Francois Amyotte Jr.	Edward Wells
Jos. Amyotte	Francois Desjarlais	Daniel Wells
Pierre Lacerte	Ant. Assure Jr.	Henri Poitras Jr.
Henri Poitras Sr.	Chs. Bottineau	Antoine Gladu
J. B. Martel	Jos. Renville	Norbert Sauve
James Cardinal	Chs. Assure	Jos. Assure Sr.
Michel Gladu Sr.	Chs. Belgarde	Antonio Houle
Michel Klyne	Andrew Klyne	J. B. Valley Jr.
Antoine Brillien	J. B. Valley Sr.	Pierre Lacarte
Joseph Assure Jr.	Chs. Gladu	

(All names are spelled as in the original.)

Reference:

Assumption Abbey, Richardton, N.D., Belleau Collection, Roll 2, 1862-101 [Provided to the Louis Riel Institute by Émilie Pigeon.].

Father Lestanc was not happy with this Metis agitation and wrote to his superior Bishop Tache (who was at the time away in Europe).

St. Boniface, 18 February 1862

Monsignor and beloved Father,

A word on the affairs of the city (St. Jos). These poor people are real children. When we speak to them, they listen, and they even seem to believe us and want to obey us but, should Mr. Belcourt return, which I doubt very much, he may do as he pleases. If he tells them to bless us, they will. If he tells them to damn us, they won't hesitate long before sending away the source of their troubles.

Charles Grant is deceitful, a man of double, or triple face. From whatever side may come the victory, he wants to take something from it. He is the active and passive agent of Mr. Belcourt. Could you, Monsignor, be assured that Mr Belcourt does not return among his dear children, his dear Métis, all of these sorry impressions against St. Boniface would soon be erased on the Mountain. But if Mr. Belcourt returns to the Mountain, with jurisdiction, there will be a barrier elevated between the St. Paul and St. Boniface dioceses that will be impassable. And if Belcourt returns without jurisdiction, which we fear, a schism is almost inevitable.

Poor city! She is the child of disobeying, may she die in her original sin ? O my God, give to the church docile priests!

I am going to end it here and hope that your Holiness will come surprise us one of these days.

Your devoted and loving son,

J. J. M. Lescanc, priest, OMI.

Reference:

Assumption Abbey, Richardton, N.D., Belleau Collection, Roll 2, 1862-100 [Provided with translation to the Louis Riel Institute by Émilie Pigeon.].

Charles "Bayriss" Cuthbert Grant (b. 1835): Charles "Bay-riss" Cuthbert Grant was born on December 28, 1835 at St. François Xavier, the son of Cuthbert Grant and Marie McGillis. He was the son of Cuthbert Grant of "Battle of Seven Oaks" fame and the founder of Grantown, later St. François Xavier. Cuthbert married Marie Gingras, the daughter of trader Antoine Gingras and Scholastique Trottier on August 28, 1860 at St. Joseph's. They had nine children. Marie (b. 1862) married Henri Poitras; Justine (b. 1865) married Joseph E. Marion; William (b. 1872) married Mary Petronile Monette;

James (b. 1877) married Rosalie Monet; and Charles (b. 1880) married Mary Vitaline Dumont. They settled on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in the late 1890s. “Bay-riss” Grant was a counselor to Chief Little Shell II.



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