

Georges Big Knife Fisher. (1830-1898)

Georges was known as Kee tchie moo ka man or “Big Knife” among the Cree. He was born on July 25, 1830 at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, the son of Georges Fisher Sr. (b. 1805) and Genevieve Courville (Métis). He married Emilie Boyer (b. 1836) from Batoche the daughter of Baptiste Boyer (b. 1805) and Helene McMillan (b.1811). One of their sons became an MLA. George was a nephew of Hudson’s Bay Company Chief Trader Henry Fisher.

Children of George Fisher and Emilie Boyer:

- Virginie, born April 22, 1859.
- George John, born November 8, 1860.
- Henri, born June 9, 1862
- Michael, born April 20, 1863.
- Charles, born December 5, 1865.
- Joseph, born September 6, 1870.
- Marie Lina, born June 2, 1872.
- Agnes Emilie, born June 2, 1872.
- Maurice, born June 2, 1872.
- Guillaume, born August 13, 1873
- Marie Madeleine, born April 17, 1875.
- Philomene, born July 5, 1878.

On September 2, 1880 the Métis of the Qu’Appelle Settlement petitioned Governor Alexander Morris for land, hunting rights and trading rights. George Fisher was one of the men who signed this petition. Georges and his brothers Michel and Joseph of Fort Qu’Appelle, and Ambroise of Duck Lake were members of an old Red River trading family with an earlier association with the Hudson’s Bay Company. They were cousins to Baptiste and William Boyer, who also settled first at the Fishing Lakes-Fort Qu’Appelle district then opened stores at Batoche, St. Laurent and Green Lake.

George Fisher had six trading posts, including the store he operated in Batoche during the 1885 Resistance. He also had about 100 carts for his freighting business, He was also the first postmaster at Lestock, Saskatchewan.

In 1869, George Fisher had visited certain Métis families who wintered in the area of the Wood Mountain. According to Fisher, this area was inviting; the territory in question was crossed by a valley where wood and sources of water abounded; and where there were many bison and other game. A caravan of 300 carts had thus left Pembina. They transported 75 Métis families coming from Pembina, Saint-Joseph and Saint-François-Xavier. All moved towards the Wood Mountain. Jean-Louis Légaré, a trader and future founder Willow Bunch was with this group of Métis.

Fisher had a very large 10 room house called “Fort Fisher” built for him by Thibeault a French-Métis. This housed his store; he also had posts at Kutawa, Nut Lake and Duck Lake. Each summer he ran as many as 60 Red River carts to Winnipeg and often as far as St. Paul, Minnesota. Fisher was a Justice of the Peace and sat on the Parish Council. George died on November 25, 1898 at Lebret.



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