

Edouard Dumont. (1845-1907)

Edouard was born February 1845 near Fort Pitt, Saskatchewan, the son of Isidore Dumont (b. 1810) and Louise Laframboise (an Assiniboine-Michif). He was the brother of Gabriel Dumont and the son of Isidore dit Ecapow (Ay-sa-pow) Dumont and Louise Laframboise, the daughter of Joseph Laframboise and Josephte (Nakota). He was baptized at Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta on August 24, 1845. J.Z. Larocque, in an article, "Mission to Lebret" (on pg. 595) says that Edouard and his brothers Eli and Gabriel could read and write French and that Edouard could also read music. He married Sophie Letendré, May 23, 1865 in St. Boniface Cathedral. She was the daughter of Marie Julie Hallett (b.c. 1819) and Louison Letendré *dit* Batoche (b.c. 1816). They had thirteen children. Sophie and Edouard are also listed among the Métis wintering at St. Laurent-de-Grandin Mission in 1871.

Children:

- Elise Isabella, born 1866, married Moise Ouellette.
- Rose, born 1867, died 1868.
- Christine, born 1870, at Grande Pointe about 30 miles from Fish Creek, she died the same year at Fish Creek.
- Louise, born January 15, 1871, at Fish Creek died in December 1885 at Batoche.
- Rosalie, born October 3, 1872, at Fish Creek and died October 5, 1874 at Batoche.
- Marie Rose, born 1873, died in 1875.
- Marie, born 1874, married Jean Baptiste Lagimodiere.
- Veronique, born October 29, 1877 at Saskatoon, died in August 1879 at Cypress Hills.
- Jean Baptiste, born January 7, 1880 at Stoney Creek, Saskatchewan.
- Modeste, born December 3, 1885 at St. Laurent, Saskatchewan.
- Liza, born 1887.

Edouard was an active participant in the Resistance of 1885. He was appointed a "Captain" in Riel's army with ten men serving under him. He was sent to Fort La Corne to recruit more fighters but had little success. Edouard fought alongside his brother Gabriel at the Battle of Duck Lake and replaced him as leader when Gabriel was wounded in battle.

Edouard Dumont's account of Duck Lake:

The reason for leaving for Duck Lake is to take the store and watch the police. Riel also leaves so as not to be left alone in Batoche

During the battle, Riel, crucifix in hand, prayed in the snow. He had come down from his horse. The Métis were about fifteen or seventeen in the hollow with Gabriel. Machiwi, an old Indian who had been killed, was baptized; his Godfather was Charles Trottier.¹

¹ SHM, p. 5.

Edouard was also at the Battle of Tourond's Coulee and brought reinforcements that saved the day there:

Edouard Dumont had remained at Batoche. The Indians think that they have heard some shooting (from Tourond's coulee) during the night. Early in the morning, around nine o'clock, he wants to go and see what is happening. He leaves on horseback with Boniface Lefort. In front of the house presently owned by the Tourond's, they meet (William) Bruce who left those who had done the morning's fighting. The latter says there is nothing to report (he departed after the first shots). They believe him and return to Batoche but upon arriving there, they hear the sound of a canon. Then, around ten or eleven o'clock, Edouard Dumont sets out again with Pierriche Parenteau, Moise Parenteau, and old Jean-Baptiste Boucher – this time, just the four went as Boniface stayed behind on this occasion. At Lenoir Parenteau's they begin to meet some of the Indians who have left the battle. They do not want to return to Fish Creek with Edouard. At Ignace Poitras', they meet old Pilon and three others who do not want to go back either. The same four continue on. Then they meet four Sioux, two of who return with them. Finally, in the early afternoon, they run into Gabriel and four or five others. Gabriel does not want to let Edouard go any further as there are not enough of them and consequently, nothing can be done. He makes him come back toward Batoche.

After traveling for a while they meet 60 men on horseback who had happened to be on the left bank. (In the morning, no one had been willing to leave with him). Again Gabriel says it is useless for them to go. But an Indian by the name of Yellow Blanket says to Gabriel:

"Uncle, when one wants to go and rescue his friends, he does not wait for the next day."

Edouard agrees:

"Yes I wanted to go to their rescue; we must go."

Gabriel agrees. They return to Fish Creek and they say:

"This time, no one will run away." Gabriel, Edouard and Yellow Blanket walk behind to prevent anyone from deserting.

They go to Pierre Tourond's where they clean their rifles. In the house, someone drops his gun, which goes off; nobody is hit. They leave for the battlefield. The sun is low. They scatter. Edouard Dumont, little Jean Dumont, Andre Letendré, a Sioux and two Crees rush straight ahead in the direction of the surrounded Métis. Edouard says to them:

"I have the best horse; let me go first."

On arriving they see that the English are fleeing on the other side. Edouard shouts:

"Are you still alive?"

"We're all not dead."

All the others arrive.

Edouard finds a mare in the coulee and gives it to his brother Elie. Charles Thomas, having been in the water all day, is half-frozen. Edouard gives him his coat.

*He wants to climb the hillside where the English are. Charles Trottier wants to stop him. He goes anyways. There is not one enemy in sight.*²

Edouard, with the two younger Lavallee's, Philippe Gariépy Elzéar Parisien and one Cree were part of the last stand in the graveyard trenches at Batoche. He fought right to the end of the Battle of Batoche but was not prosecuted since he, like his brother Gabriel, Jean Caron, Charles Trottier, Isidore Dumas and Chief Fine Day, escaped to the United States. Baptiste Parenteau, Isidore Parenteau, Patrice Joseph Fleury, Edouard Dumont and Jean Dumont all joined the Spring Creek Métis Band in Montana. He lived near Lewistown, Montana for several years then eventually returned to the vicinity of Batoche where he died on January 13, 1907. He is buried at St. Antoine de Padoue Cemetery, Batoche.

Scrip Applications:

- Scrip affidavit for Dumont, Edouard; born: February 1845; father: Isidore Dumont (Métis); mother: Louise Laframboise (Métis); claim no.: 2546; date of issue: April 16, 1877.
- Scrip affidavit for Dumont, Sophie; wife of Edouard Dumont; born: November 1, 1846; father: Louis Letendre (Métis); mother: Marie Hallet (Métis); claim no.: 2547; date of issue: April 17, 1877.
- Dumont, Edouard; heir to his deceased daughter, Christine Dumont; claim no. 15; born: 15 July, 1870 at Grande Pointe; died: April, 1871 at Fish Creek; address: Batoche; father: Edouard Dumont (Métis and deponent); mother: Sophie Letendre (Métis).
- Dumont, Edouard; heir to his deceased daughter, Louise Dumont; claim no. 382; born: 15 January, 1871 at Fish Creek; died: December, 1885 at Batoche; address: Batoche, Saskatchewan; father: Edouard Dumont (Métis and deponent); mother: Sophie Letendre (Métis); scrip cert.: form F, no. 233 for 240 acres of land.
- Dumont, Edouard; heir to his deceased daughter, Rosalie Dumont; claim no. 365; born: 3 October, 1872 at Fish Creek; died: 5 October, 1874 at St. Laurent, Saskatchewan; address: Batoche; father: Edouard Dumont (Métis and deponent); mother: Sophie Letendre (Métis); scrip cert.: form F, no. 13 for 240 acres of land.
- Dumont, Edouard; heir to his deceased daughter, Véronique Dumont; claim no. 366; born: 29 October, 1877 at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; died: August, 1879 at Cypress Hills; address: Batoche; father: Edouard Dumont (Métis and deponent); mother: Sophie Letendre (Métis); scrip cert.: form F, no. 215 for 240 acres of land.

² SHM, pp. 27-29.

- Dumont, Jean; address: Batoche, Saskatchewan; claim no. 471; born: 7 January, 1880 at Stony Creek, Saskatchewan; father: Edouard Dumont (Métis); mother: Sophie Letendre (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 323 for \$240.00.
- Dumont, Modeste; address: Batoche, Saskatchewan; claim no. 472; born: 3 December, 1885 at St. Laurent, Saskatchewan; father: Edouard Dumont (Métis); mother: Sophie Letendre (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 705 for \$240.00.



LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE
Knowledge • Culture • Heritage

Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute