

Dumont (Dumond), Isidore Sr. *dit* Ecapow. (1810-1885)

Isidore Dumont was the son of Jean-Baptiste Dumont (b. 1760) and Josephthe Sarcee (b. 1765) His father was a Montreal fur trader who worked on contract for the HBC.

Isidore “Ekapow” Dumont (b. 1810) led the peace negotiations with the Dakota held at Devil’s Lake in 1862. Isidore’s brother Jean Baptiste “Sha-how-tow” Dumont. (1805-1884) was one of the nine Métis leaders selected to represent the Pembina Métis community in treaty negotiations with Governor Ramsey in 1851.

Isidore was Gabriel Dumont’s father. Isidore married Louise Laframboise (b. 1806), the daughter of Joseph Laframboise and Josephthe a Nakoda woman. Their children were: Isidore Jr. (b. 1833), Pélagie (b. 1835), Gabriel (b. 1837), Joseph (b. circa 1839), Isabelle (b. 1842), Edouard (b. 1845), and Elie (b. 1871). In the 1830s Isidore and his family moved to Red River and were living with his wife’s parents until moving to the Saskatchewan River valley in 1840 near Fort Pitt. In 1848 he returned to White Horse Plain and for several years split his time between there and Saskatchewan.

His second wife was Angie (Angele) Landry, the daughter of Joseph Landry and Genevieve Lalonde, they were married on June 10, 1867 at St. Norbert. They had three children; Marguerite b. 1868), Joseph (b. 1871) and Marie Azilda (b. 1873). Isidore Sr. was part of the original 1871 St. Laurent on the South Saskatchewan governing committee and was elected as a St. Laurent Council member in 1873 and 1874. Isidore was a witness during the signing of Treaty Six at Fort Carlton on September 9, 1876. In 1878, Isidore and other Métis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Métis reserve of land.¹

Although not active in the fighting at Batoche in the 1885 Resistance, Isidore did supply provisions and sheltered his son and others after the final battle. He died just after the defeat at Batoche. He is mentioned in the documents of the 1850s as trading at Fort Ellice. His nickname was “Ecapow” and the Cree Indians called him “Ai caw paw” (The Immoveable or Unshakeable One). He passed away in 1885 at St. Laurent on the South Saskatchewan.

R.D. Dick Garneau, gives an account of Iacaste Dumont leading a buffalo hunt in Alberta on May 19, 1874² accompanied by his brothers Jean-Baptiste and Isidore:

May 19: The French Métis are all out after them [the bison] what hunt they will make we cannot say. They had called council among themselves about forming a government of their own. I received a letter from their President Gabriel [Iacaste] Dumont or Aespos, Lou and Alexander Beaulieu, Baptiste³ and Pierre Gardippis⁴, Jean and Isadore Dumont

¹ Requesting a re-opening of the buffalo hunt between November 14th and February 15th each year and the granting of Métis “reserve” land (A strip of land 150 miles long along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border. This strip was to be fifty miles from south to north.

² R. D. Garneau: (“Establishing a Homestead at Old Strathcona, North West Territories.” <http://www.telusplanet.net/dgarneau/alberta5.htm>.

³ Baptiste Garapee (Guardipee, Gariepy) (b. 1832) Jean Baptiste was born at Red River on July 3, 1832, the son of Louis Gariepy (b. 1771) and Josephthe Ducharme (b. 1806, died 1871 on the Marias River). His father, Louis was a voyageur first with the NWC then after amalgamation with the HBC. He retired to St. Francois Xavier in 1824. Baptiste’s wife Julia was born in Montana in 1828. 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.

(brothers of Gabriel Iacaste Dumont) , Abraham Montour.⁵ Baptiste Beuleiu, and Moyse Ouillet [sic] have been elected members of the Council. They wanted their English friends as they said to join them with a friendly hand to uphold their Councils, to which we could not adhere, only in regarding the buffalo (bison) hunt that we should go together with them in this.

Census data:

1838 Red River Census #149, Isidore Dumond, age __, Native, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 2 sons (-16), 4 daughters (-15), 8 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 3 horses, 2 mares, 3 pigs, 1 harrow, 4 carts, 1 canoe, 3 acres. (1838 E.5/9) page 10.

1840 Red River Census #153, Isidore Dumond, age __, Native, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 3 sons (-16), 4 daughters (-15), 9 total inhabitants, 1 house, 3 horses, 1 mare, 1 ox, 1 cow, 4 carts. Lives with Laframboise. (1840 E.5/10) page 10.

Scrip Records:

Scrip affidavit for Dumont, Isidore; born: March 20, 1810; father: Jean-Baptiste Dumont; mother: Josette Carcy (Indian); claim no.: 2689; date of issue: April 20, 1877.

Dumont, Isidore (One of the heirs of Marie Azilda Dumont) - Scrip number A 26379 - Amount 1.50\$ - Certificate number D 1817.1900/11/19-1903/09/24. File. RG15-D-II-8-f. Volume/box number: 1400. Textual material. [Access: Open]. Government. Finding aid number: 15-24 Place of issue Prince Albert - AJ Adamson 0001112749.

⁴ Pierre Gariepy (b. 1826) Pierre Gariepy was born in 1826, the son of Francois Gariepy Sr. and Louise Josephte Gladu. On September 10, 1848 he married Marie Rose Grant at St. François Xavier. Marie Rose was the daughter of Cuthbert Grant and Mary McGillis. They were members of the Turtle Mountain Band. They had 15 children. They were enumerated in the 1870 census at St. François Xavier but in 1872 moved to St. Laurent on the South Saskatchewan where they lived on the west side of the river. Pierre was elected as a St. Laurent Council member in 1873. This family was to become heavily involved with the Métis Resistance of 1885.

⁵ Montour, Abraham; address: Batoche; born: 1832 at Red River; father: Bonhomme Montour (Métis); mother: Marguerite Spence (Métis); married: 1853 at Pembina River to Marie Page; children living: Abraham, Marie, Jean Baptiste, Justine, Clemence, Cecile, Daniel, Isidore and Alexandrine; children deceased: Victoire and Julienne; scrip for \$160.00; claim no. 1160.



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