

Swain, John “Natumeo”. (1829-1885)

John Swain *dit* Natumeo was born at Lake Manitoba, the son of James Swain Sr. (b. 1808) and Josephte Descoteaux (b. 1805). He was married to Louise Laverdure, born October 12, 1830, the daughter of Joseph Laverdure (b. 1805) and his Métis wife, Nancy Duck (b. 1806). The couple was married on February 17, 1857 at St. François Xavier. In 1870, John and Louise were living on Lot 75 in St. Charles Parish with their children Nancy (born 1858), John (born 1859), Joseph (born 1860), Marie (born 1865) and, Amable (born 1869). The Riel family shared the house of his brother James Swain Jr. while living at St. Peter’s Mission in Montana. James left Montana and accompanied Riel to Batoche in 1884.

After Johnny Grant sold his Montana ranch to Conrad Kohrs in 1866 he left his family for several months while he searched for a new place to settle. Choosing the Carmen, Manitoba area, he returned to Deer Lodge. At Red River he hired twelve Métis to return with him to Montana and assist in the move. John Swain was one of the men he hired to assist him in bringing his large herd of horses and household back to Manitoba.

John Swain and other Métis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Métis reserve of land in 1878. John fought during the 1885 Resistance at Batoche and was killed on May 12, the last day of fighting. He is buried at St. Antoine de Padoue Cemetery, Batoche. John was a member of Captain Baptiste Boucher’s company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance.



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