

Larocque, Alexandre, Kar-kakim-mick. (1846-1913)

Alexandre, also known as Kar-kakim-mick was born on November 13, 1846 at St. François Xavier (SFX), the son of Louis Larocque (1823-1890) and Judith Guilbault¹, and the grandson of Oliver Larocque and Madeleine Piche. In 1868 Alexandre married Rose Trottier the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Trottier and Louise Chalifoux. He subsequently married Rose Sayer, the daughter of Edouard Sayer and Madeleine Delorme on July 1, 1874 at SFX.² Edouard Sayer, born 1823, was the son of the famous Métis fur trader Guillaume Sayer. Sayer's trial for illegal trading in 1849 effectively established free trade for the Métis.³ Alexandre Larocque died at San Clara, Manitoba in 1913.

Children of Alexandre and Rose:

- Moise, born January 28, 1877, died January 5, 1878 at SFX.
- Clemence, born December 13, 1880, married Alfred Paul.
- Veronique, born May 15, 1894 at St. John North Dakota, died 1934 at Birch River.

Alexandre was a fur trader operating out of St. François Xavier. Eva Durnin, tells the following story:⁴

Every year Larocque and his wife, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Langan and a Mr. and Mrs. St. Germaine travelled to a central location accessible for trade with a large number of Indians. At this site a log cabin was erected with a sod roof and plastered clay walls and floor. Windows were made of scraped buffalo hides transparent enough for light to filter through. Beds were bunks made of poles and logs, the mattresses stuffed with hay. The cabin was subdivided into three sections to accommodate the three families. Rose gave birth to her first infant in one of these shelters but the child died at four months of age. The men travelled by horseback to engage in fur trade with various Indian tribes. After trading had taken place a horse dragged a travois laden with furs back to the winter quarters.

In Spring the furs were packed into Red River carts and the families returned to their summer homes. The furs were delivered to Rose's paternal grandfather, Mr. [Guillaume] Sayer, in St. Boniface. The Hudson's Bay Company paid Mr. Sayer for

¹ The daughter of Joseph Guilbault and Mary Anne (Nakoda). Scrip affidavit for Larocque, Judith; born: January 1827; wife of Louis Larocque; father: Joseph Guilbeault (French Canadian); mother: Marie Anne (Indian); claim no: 1266; scrip no: 10210; date of issue: August 21, 1876; amount: \$160.

² Sayer, Marie Rose (Daughter of Edward Sayer) - Scrip number A 11293 - Amount 160.00\$ - Certificate number C 400. 1900/06/19-1900/08/29. File.

RG15-D-II-8-f. Volume/box number: 1398.

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Place of issue Fort Qu'Appelle - Applied on the E1/2 30-7-3 W5 00011105494

³ See, L. Barkwell, "The Sayer Trial at Red River 1849" also on scribd.com.

⁴ Eva Durnin, "Some Notes on a Pioneer Family – The Larocques of San Clara", *Manitoba Pageant*, Winter 1979, Vol. 24, No. 2.

the furs in bills of small denomination which remained in a wooden chest until he reimbursed Alex Larocque and his helpers.

Alex and Rose moved to a homestead at St. John, North Dakota in 1882, but they returned to Manitoba with their family in 1906.⁵ Accompanied by the families of Frank Langan, Jack Bell and Mike Henry they travelled by wagon train a distance of about three hundred miles from St. John to San Clara, Manitoba. Three open hay racks carried all household effects. Rose Larocque and her three-year-old baby rode in a four-wheeled buggy with a waterproof top and removable side curtains. The daughter of Alex and Rose, Rose aged twenty-four and her cousin, "Besant Larocque" on horseback herded eighteen horses and forty cattle. Enroute the wagon train sojourned for two weeks to look over land prospects at Elphinstone, Manitoba.

In 1906 Alex and Rose took the homestead, fractional section 14, 29-29A in the unorganized territory of San Clara, Manitoba. There were only six families in this area at the time and the only roads were meandering trails. Alex practised mixed farming at this site until his death in 1913. Rose remained there until her death in 1948. Their daughter, Rose, married Thomas Wheeler in 1912. During their working years they farmed at Boggy Creek, San Clara and Happy Lake and for eighteen years they operated a post office and store at Boggy Creek. On their retirement they moved to a cottage at San Clara on the Larocque homestead. Rose died in 1969 and Thomas in 1972. Other descendants of the group who arrived in 1906 still live in the San Clara district.



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⁵ Their daughter Veronique Larocque was born at St. John N.D. on May 15, 1894.