

Nolin, Marie (Falcon). (b. 1828)

Marie Nolin was born on December 7, 1828, the daughter of Augustin Nolin (b. 1781) and Helene Cameron the daughter of Donald Cameron. Marie was baptized July 5, 1829, her godfather was Thomas Harrison, her godmother was Angelique Nolin. She married Jean Baptiste Falcon born 1825, the son of the Métis bard Pierre Falcon. She was one of the heroines of the Battle of the Grand Coteau in 1851. Her husband was leading the St. François Xavier hunting party that fended off 2,000 Dakota attackers under Medicine Bear.

Marie's father fought on the British side during the War of 1812. Her brother Charles Nolin was a provincial M.L.A. for St. Anne des Chênes. Marie married Jean Baptiste Falcon sometime before 1849. Jean Baptiste was born near Devil's Lake in the Dakota Territory. He was the son of Pierre Falcon (b. 1793) and Marie Grant (the daughter of Cuthbert Grant). He was the buffalo hunt leader for the St. François Xavier Metis. He died in 1910 at St. Anne, MB. Marie Nolin died on November 15, 1903 at Ste. Anne, Manitoba.

Marie was with Jean-Baptiste at the Battle of the Grand Coteau. Her husband was a Métis leader at the Battle of the Grand Coteau in 1851. This battle took place between a Métis buffalo hunting party from St. François Xavier, led by Jean Baptiste Falcon and the Cut Head (Pabaksa) Yanktonai (Ihanktonwanna), Dakota, led by Chief Medicine (Sacred) Bear, on July 15 to 16, 1851. Falcon's sister, Isabelle Falcon, also participated in this battle. Jean Baptiste's son Francis Falcon would record in 1938:

Jean Baptiste Falcon was going around acting as captain, his sister Isabelle was fighting in his place. She never left him alone during the three days battle, she would force him to rest and during that time she would shoot and she was a good shot too. Every time they would shoot, it was sure a Sioux would fall. And they would shoot from sunrise to sunset everyday.

Jean-Baptiste Falcon and Marie Nolin had the following children:

- Marie, born May 27, 1849 at Baie St. Paul. She married Antoine Desjarlais, the son of Antoine Desjarlais and Louise Richard.
- Mélanie, born July 28, 1850 at St. François Xavier. She married Hippolyte Beaudry, the son of Narcisse Beaudry and Lucie Breland.
- Pierre Falcon, born November 11, 1851 at St. François Xavier. He married Florestine McGillis, the daughter of John McGillis and Marie Breland.
- Rose, born January 17, 1853 at St. François Xavier. She married Francois Roussin, the son of François Roussin and Elise Courchene..
- Emelie, born October 15, 1854 at St. Francois Xavier. She married Octave Perreault, the son of Norbert Perreault and Monique Hamelin.
- Alphonsine, born December 2, 1856. She married Norbert Blanchette, the son of Jean Louis Blanchette and Adelaide Poissant in 1883. She then married Louis Mainville in 1826.
- Josephte, born October 25, 1859 at St. François Xavier.
- François, born December 22, 1861 at St. François Xavier.
- Madeleine, born March 21, 1863 at St. François Xavier. She married François Berard, the son of Jeremie Berard and Philomene Huppe.

- Gregoire, born August 21, 1864 at St. François Xavier and died on November 5, 1865.
- Jean Baptiste, born May 27, 1866 at St. François Xavier and died June 13, 1866.
- Charles, born November 27, 1867 at St. François Xavier. He married Marie Justine Paul, the daughter of William Paul and Flavie Page in 1894
- Isabelle, born August 5, 1869 at St. François Xavier. She married Albert Morin, the son of David Morin and Desneiges Nault in 1895.
- Augustin, born March 10, 1871.
- Angelique, born March 5, 1873. She married David Roussin, the son of François Roussin and Elise Courchene in 1899.

In the 1870s Jean-Baptiste and Marie Falcon and their family were still hunting on the plains. In 1878, Jean-Baptiste Falcon and other Métis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Métis reserve of land. In 1878, the Half-Breeds living in the vicinity of Cypress Hills petitioned the government for their own reserve.¹ This is a petition requested a re-opening of the buffalo hunt between November 14th and February 15th each year and the granting of Métis reserve” land. The request was for a strip of land 150 miles long along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border, running west for 150 miles into Saskatchewan. This strip was to be fifty miles from south to north. The petition did not receive a favourable response.



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

¹ Canada Sessional Papers, No. 45, 1886: 10-12. Received through the North-West Council, not dated, covering letters from the Lieut.-Governor of the North-West Territories, dated 30 September 1878.