

Vandal, Pierre. (b. 1848)

Pierre was the son of Antoine Vandal and Isabelle Millet *dite* Beauchemin, they moved near Fish Creek in 1872 or 1873. Pierre was enumerated at age two with his family at Pembina during the 1850 census of the Minnesota Territory. He married Louise Poitras¹ on the 8th of June 1874. Louise was the daughter of Ignace Poitras and Helene McGillis. Pierre and Louise had 16 children between 1874 and 1899. The family lived at Fish Creek (Tourond's Coulée).

Pierre was a member of Captain William Fidler's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. His brothers-in-law Maurice Henry (married to Isabelle) and Jean Baptiste Rocheleau (married to Melanie) were also active in the Resistance, as were his father Antoine Sr. and brother, Antoine Jr.

In his testimony of August 13, 1885 at the Regina trial Father Alexis André says: "Pierre Vandal I have known for fifteen years. He has seven children, young and unable to care for themselves. He is thirty-six years of age. The poor man was sick and unable to do anything; being useless, Riel sent him off to Battleford along with others to protect the prisoners in Poundmaker's camp. He neither had arms nor did anything for which he should suffer the punishment he has suffered since he foolishly surrendered himself to the authorities." CSP, 1886, Vol. 13, p.386)

Pierre was found guilty of felony-treason and was sentenced to seven years imprisonment for his participation in the 1885 Resistance. He was sent to Stoney Mountain Penitentiary.

Vandal, Simon; address: Fish Creek, Saskatchewan; born: Fall, 1885 at Fish Creek; father: Pierre Vandal (Métis); mother: Eliza Poitras (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 1407 for \$240.00; claim no. 886.



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

¹ Parents : Ignace POITRAS ca. 1829 & Helene McGILLIS b. 1834 .