

Vandal, Joseph¹ “La Pioche.” (1810-1885)

Joseph was the son of Antoine Vandal and his Ojibway wife Angelique. He first married Louise Dupuis then Louise Lavallee. In his younger days he was a buffalo hunter operating out of Pembina. At age 75, he fought and died at Batoche during the 1885 Resistance. He was a member of Captain Ambroise Champagne’s company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. On May 12, 1885 he was shot and had both arms broken, but was finished with a bayonet. Emmanuel Champagne recounts: “Joseph Vandal was at Ross’s side. He also wanted to take shots at the house. He is hit in the arm with the bullet coming out behind his shoulder. He drops his gun, flees, and dies on the battlefield.”² He is buried at St. Antoine de Padoue Cemetery, Batoche.



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¹ A signator of Gabriel Dumont’s petition (dated St. Antoine de Padoue, 4th September, 1882) to the Prime Minister for a survey and land grants.

² Rudy Wiebe and Bob Beal (Editors). *War in the West: Voices of the 1885 Rebellion*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Ltd., 1985: 127.